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Thursday December 5 1996

Albania D 1.20	Greenland D 4.00	Norway NK 16
Austria FF 10	Hong Kong HK 25	Oman OM 1.20
Bahrain BD 0.50	India IN 15	Poland PL 2.00
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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,726

Emma Forrest on the charity record phenomenon


Books

OnLine


Can potential help Dun...



Seamus Deane Guardian Fiction Award winner



Christmas gifts for computer buffs



War pensions cover-up

Ministers cut £50m of veterans' cash

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

BLATANT "sweeteners" are being offered by ministers to try to buy off protests over a £50 million package of cuts in war pensions, disclosed in the Budget as simplification of the rules to help disabled ex-servicemen and war widows.

Confidential documents seen by the Guardian show the £1 million sweeteners, described as such by officials, have been devised to "help to

split the ex-service lobby" in its reaction to the cuts.

Peter Lilley, the Social Security Secretary, has warned that the Government "faces a storm" over the package. In a letter to William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, he has put on record that he opposed the most controversial cut, which will hit war veterans growing increasingly dear.

This cut, due to be revealed today, will stop 10,000 people a year getting a higher disability pension because their hearing is deteriorating after being damaged during military service.

Mr Lilley told Mr Walde-

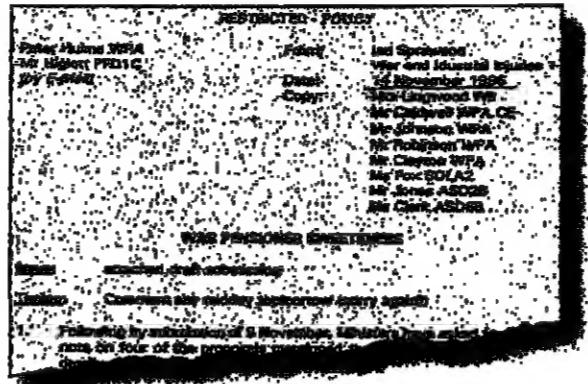
grave: "You will recall that I said at the bilateral [spending negotiations] that all my ministers were against this move, and it is not something we would choose to do, but in the end it is not a matter over which there is any choice."

When the Government last made a cut in this area, in 1983, there was an outcry. That change, the first in the war pensions scheme since it started in 1947, stopped pensions to people with a hearing impairment assessed at less than 20 per cent.

The new cuts package was described in the Budget small print as "proposals to simplify policy and procedures", which "will make claims easier to process and eliminate inconsistent entitlement conditions". The Whitehall documents show it will, in fact, produce "around 500 gainers (all war widows) and about 7,000-10,000 losers" — nearly all war disablement



Secret memo talks of sweeteners to buy off protests



Secret memo talks of sweeteners to buy off protests

to return claim forms or to seal an increase in entitlement.

In his letter, Mr Lilley says presentation of the package will be "extremely difficult at this sensitive time". He urges Mr Waldegrave to agree four proposed sweeteners "if the Government is going to be in a position to defend itself".

Stressing the cheapness of the sweeteners, Mr Lilley says: "I believe this to be well worthwhile given the storm that we face over the changes already agreed."

The four measures are:

- Payment to all those receiving a clothing allowance, mainly amputees, of the higher rate of the allowance — £34 a year, rather than £25. Cost is put at £350,000 a year.
- The documents say this "targets the severely disabled and a group which attracts much public sympathy (amputees)".
- Extension of payment of funeral grants to the families of

disabled war pensioners. The change is forecast to apply in just 55 cases a year and cost £60,000.

- Abolition of rank differentials in gratuities paid for non-hearing disabilities of less than 20 per cent severity. This will apply in 10,000-15,000 new cases annually at a cost of up to £750,000 and the documents warn that "we may be accused of trying to 'buy off' critics".
- Payment of a one-off grant of a minimum £100,000 towards a refurbishment appeal for the independently-run Chasely house for disabled ex-service personnel.

The first three of these measures had been added to the basic cuts package before details of it were sent last week to the consultative central advisory committee on war pensions. It has until mid-January to respond.

Leader comment, page 8

Howard ups payouts to head off guns revolt

Alan Travis, Home Affairs Editor

THE compensation bill for handgun owners will soar from £25 million to £150 million because of further concessions to be announced by the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, to head off embarrassing Commons revolts.

The latest Home Office estimate is six times the original figure quoted as the price of buying up 160,000 higher calibre weapons when the gun control legislation was first published six weeks ago.

The extra concessions come after pressure from up to 30 backbench Tory MPs over the Firearms Bill now going through the Commons. The ban on higher calibre handguns is expected to come into force in the new year.

The Home Secretary is poised to announce that he will extend the market value compensation scheme for individual gun owners to firearm dealers so that they will not face financial loss as a result of the destruction of their stocks. The gun trade has claimed that as many as 3,000 jobs will go as a result of the firearms ban.

The compensation bill is also to be swelled by a further decision to buy in accessories held by shooters.

These items not only include shoulder holsters, ammunition and spare parts but also bullet-making machinery and handloading equipment which can be worth thousands of pounds to individual gun owners.

About £12 million is expected to be paid out to the owners of the smaller 0.22 calibre pistols which will remain legal after the ban comes into effect next month.

The owners of the 40,000 smaller calibre pistols will also be paid the market value for their weapons if they are prepared to forfeit them.

It is expected that some owners of smaller calibre guns will no longer live within reasonable travelling distance of a gun club which has a sufficient standard of security to allow weapons to

be stored legally.

The Government has said it will pay compensation to the market value of the individual weapon on October 15, the day before Michael Howard announced the ban in the House of Commons. Home Office estimates of the final bill are based on the assumption that they will pay out an average of £100 to £150 for every gun surrendered. Most of the weapons will be melted down.

Mr Howard had already softened the original package by announcing that "heritage weapons" such as antique pistols would not be covered by the ban.

In the Commons yesterday the Government agreed to Labour demands to review the current age limits for using shotguns and airguns. At present, the law allows 14 and 15-year-olds to fire both types of weapon. The official Firearms Consultative Committee is to be asked to look at the issue.

Home Office Minister Ann Widdecombe also announced that paint-ball guns and other low-powered compressed carbon dioxide weapons would be exempted from the new gun controls.

In the Commons debate last night Tory chairman of the Defence Select Committee Michael Colvin (Romsey and Waterside) supported the call for more compensation.

He described the Government's planned compensation package as "nothing short of legalised robbery" and added: "It's only right that there should be proper arrangements for full compensation."

Mr Colvin said the Government's response to Dumblane had ignored the recommendations of Lord Cullen's inquiry and was destroying the sport of target shooting.

"It jeopardises the future of all British shooting sports and does nothing to stop criminals getting guns illegally."

Earlier the British Shooting Sports Council urged the Government to back a move which it claims would save some gun clubs, forced to introduce expensive security measures, from closure.

Art spotting



1334

Kitaj or college student? Bowie or budding talent? For £30, the choice is yours

David Bowie

IT MIGHT be a masterpiece or it might be dross. It might be a waste of money or a shrewd investment in the art market. It might even be a Frank Auerbach original or the latest work by R B Kitaj. Equally, it could be by Vic Reeves or a student at the Royal College of Art.

For £30, art lovers have the opportunity to purchase unsigned works of art in an exhibition at the Royal College by a list of artists that reads like a who's who of contemporary art.

The artists were given a blank postcard on which to carry out their work for the exhibition. On the back of the postcard they filled in their name and indicated which way up it had to be displayed. All the works are the same size, they all cost £30, and all are signed on the back. The identities of the artists will be revealed on Sunday, once buying has closed.

The Guardian chose four of the 1,600 postcards on display. One, a nude, has cubist touches that suggest the hand of the contributing editor to Modern Painters magazine — David Bowie.

Another, featuring a sheep in a glass tank, one of several homages to Damien Hirst featuring farmyard animals, was bought for the obvious influence of the highly marketable Britpack.

The third, a landscape, was bought as a nod to conventional fine art values, and the fourth, a line drawing, was bought at random, chosen by its number.

Artists exhibiting in the show, titled *Absolut Secret*, include established figures such as Frank Auerbach, Patrick Caulfield, Anthony Whishaw, R B Kitaj, Eduardo Paolozzi, Claus Oldenburg and Paula Rego.

Young British artists are represented by Turner Prize nominee Simon Patterson, Tracy Emina and Marc Quinn. A strong celebrity contingent is led by George Melly, Vic Reeves and Holly Johnson. Only one artist is listed as "Anon".

Proceeds from the show, which raised £19,000 last year, go to the college's fine art student fund.

"The idea is that you judge things visually," said RCA spokesman Aubrey Green. "You're really left to your wits. You come away with something you like."

Although it may free some art lovers of the prejudices of prior knowledge, others come

turn to page 2, column 7

The Guardian

To our readers,

Over recent weeks, we have been experiencing production problems which have seriously affected our distribution in some countries.

We have now installed new transmission equipment at both our overseas print sites — an investment which will ensure a regular and timely distribution of The Guardian International to our readers all over the world.

Guardian Newspapers will continue to invest in the future — to make The Guardian International available in as many countries as possible, as early as possible.

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Inside

The food poisoning epidemic which reached seventh victim yesterday as the first shots were fired in a battle for compensation.

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World News

The war crimes tribunal accused the peace conference on Bosnia of ignoring efforts to bring to trial those accused of war atrocities.

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Finance

As NatWest unveiled plans to shed 10,000 jobs, the ombudsman criticised the banks for taking too little care when closing branches.

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Sport

Manchester United had one last chance to advance in Europe as they took on Rapid Vienna away in a Champions League make-or-break clash.

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770261 307347

Sketch

The Fabb One: the early years



Simon Hoggart

USED to smoke up to 60 cigarettes a day, and giving up was awful. But I was helped by the certainty that I had even one puff I would have worked my way through a whole packet by dusk...

the same straw-coloured hair, but he wore really neat clothes: tie-dyed shirts and loon pants. There was this terrible neon lighting, and he had a bubble machine...

New power-sharing plan could buy off Moscow's opposition to expansion into eastern Europe

Nato offers Russia a veto



Yevgeny Primakov: Forum seems to ally his concerns

RUSSIA may be offered joint chairmanship of a new 17-member Nato forum in an effort to buy off its opposition to the alliance's expansion into eastern Europe...

ritorial defence, a cosy relationship that would have been unthinkable a few years ago. The dispatch of Nato peacekeeping forces to Bosnia, for instance, or their withdrawal, would be decided in the new council...

The purpose, however, is to persuade Moscow that Nato is serious about wanting a partnership, and that Russia has nothing to fear from parallel plans to invite several East European countries to become full members of the alliance...

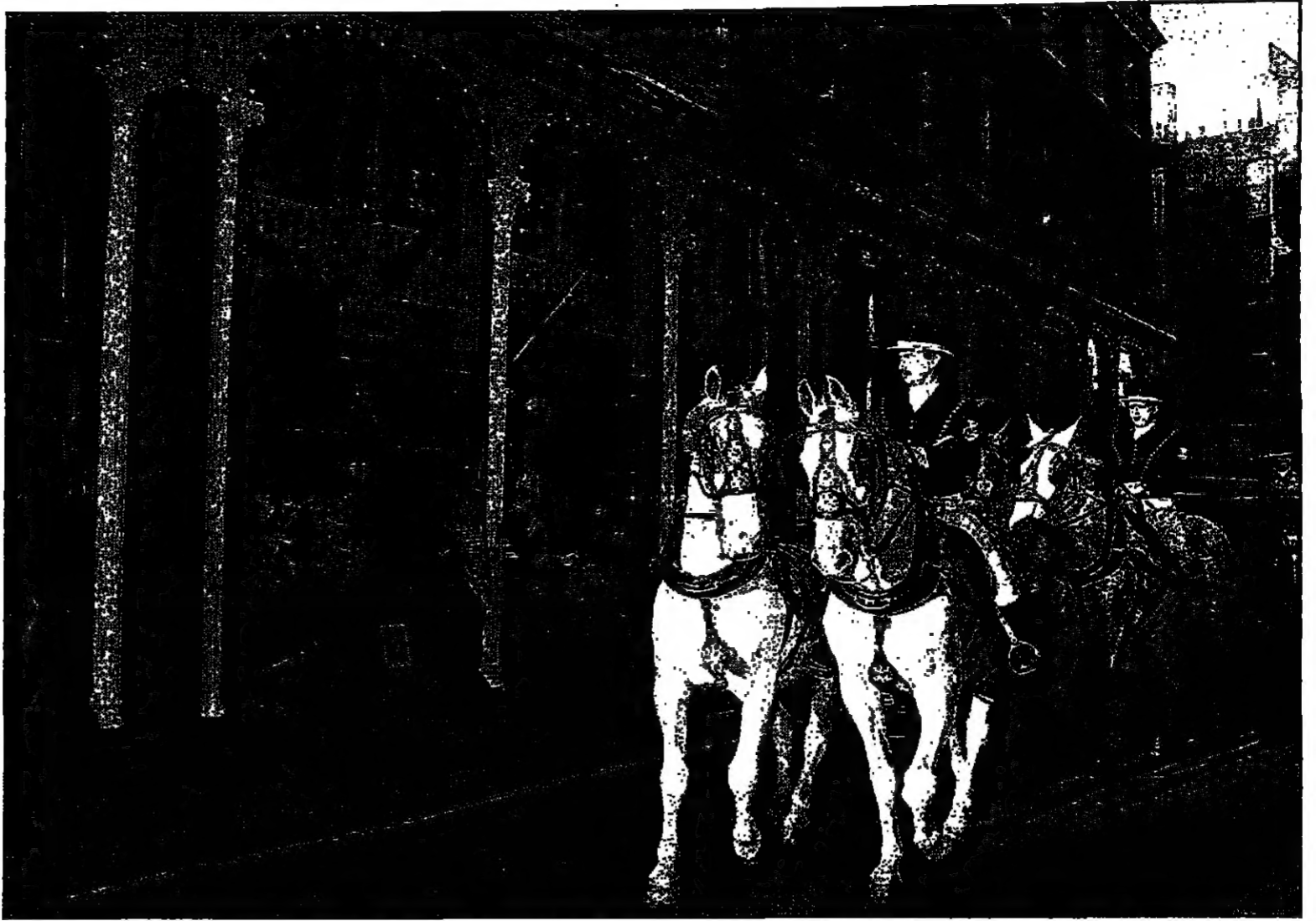
of new nuclear bases near its western borders. Next week's Brussels meeting is expected to answer the second complaint by declaring publicly that there is no requirement to deploy tactical nuclear weapons in eastern Europe "under foreseeable circumstances"...

lantic Treaty, which binds full members to defend each other's territory, would be more problematic. It might alarm candidates like Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, which are seeking to escape permanently from Moscow's sphere of influence...

Asprey, sponsor to royals, for added sparkle

Kamal Ahmed

CELEBRATION to mark the Queen's 50th wedding anniversary next summer will be sponsored by Asprey, giving the jewellers unprecedented worldwide publicity and 90 minutes of live BBC television coverage...



A carriage and four horses outside Asprey's to launch its sponsorship of the pageant marking the Queen's 50th wedding anniversary PHOTOGRAPH: STEFAN REM

Review

Three Heads no better than one

Garth Cartwright

THE Sex Pistols did not need Sid Vicious to make a go of it, but Talking Heads without David Byrne? Agreed, impossible, so his Manhattan musical chums have set themselves in business as The Heads...

crete Blonde. The audience's collective heads swivelled every time a roadie neared the stage, hoping for the odd famous gift. Shaun Ryder may often be mistaken for road crew but unfortunately the head Grape was not in the house...

charities. It is going to be an amazingly good fun," said Major Michael Parker, the head of the organising committee. "Those that can't afford to come will be able to see it live on television..."

London to mark the Queen Mother's 90th birthday in 1990 was funded by charitable organisations, including the Gosling Foundation, chaired by Sir David Gosling, chairman of NCP car parks...

publicity of the very best sort. To have an association with class is very important, particularly for a company like Asprey," said Major Parker, a former member of the organising committees for the VE and VJ Day celebrations...

Queen's representative at Ascot, and Lieutenant Colonel Seymour Gilbert-Deaneham, the Crown Equerry and head of the Royal Mews's carriages and horses...

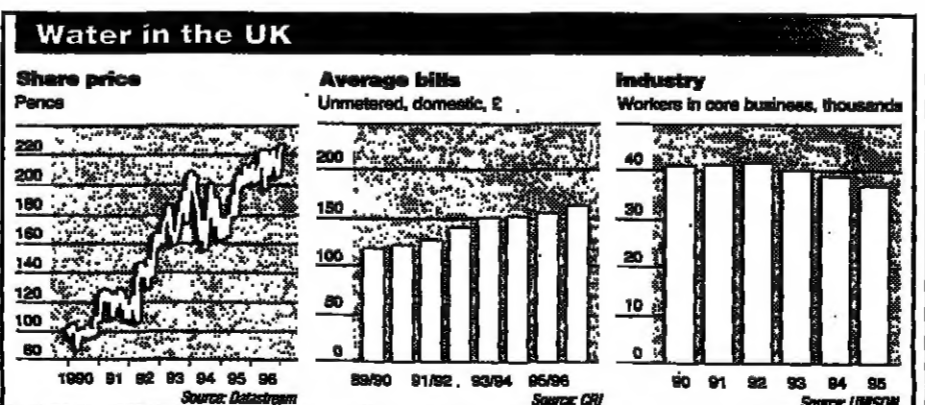
spokeswoman described as a "spectacular piece of theatre". A cheaper day event will take place on a separate field, with tickets likely to cost 25 p per car...

Buckingham Palace pointed out that the Queen had been approached independently by the committee and that the pageant was a semi-formal affair celebrating her and her husband's love of horses...

Water bills up 42 pc after sell-off

Celia Weston Industrial Correspondent

DIRE warnings about the cost to consumers of privatising the water industry appeared to be proven yesterday when an independent research group revealed that average bills have risen by nearly 42 per cent in real terms in the seven years since the water firms were sold by the Tories...



Southern Water confirmed last night that it is to jettison half its workforce — 2,000 out of 3,900 people — in a cost-cutting drive following its takeover by Scottish Power earlier this year. The company yesterday announced interim pre-tax profits were up 31 per cent to £167 million...

For £30, pick your own masterpiece

continued from page 1 to the exhibition to buy a work by a famous artist for £30. "The most popular is the Auerbach," said Mr Green. "Everyone was running around trying to find it..."



CAVA IT RISES TO EVERY OCCASION
Pop the cork! Release the Cava!
You will find Cava is just made for celebrations, and the more spontaneous the better.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Euro' and 'Pension'.

Arabic text at the bottom center of the page.



Eurostar staff at Waterloo station, London, yesterday wait for the passengers who never came, as Channel tunnel services resumed

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN GOWEN

Eurotunnel's long walk to fire safety

Almost empty trains highlight concerns as passenger services begin

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

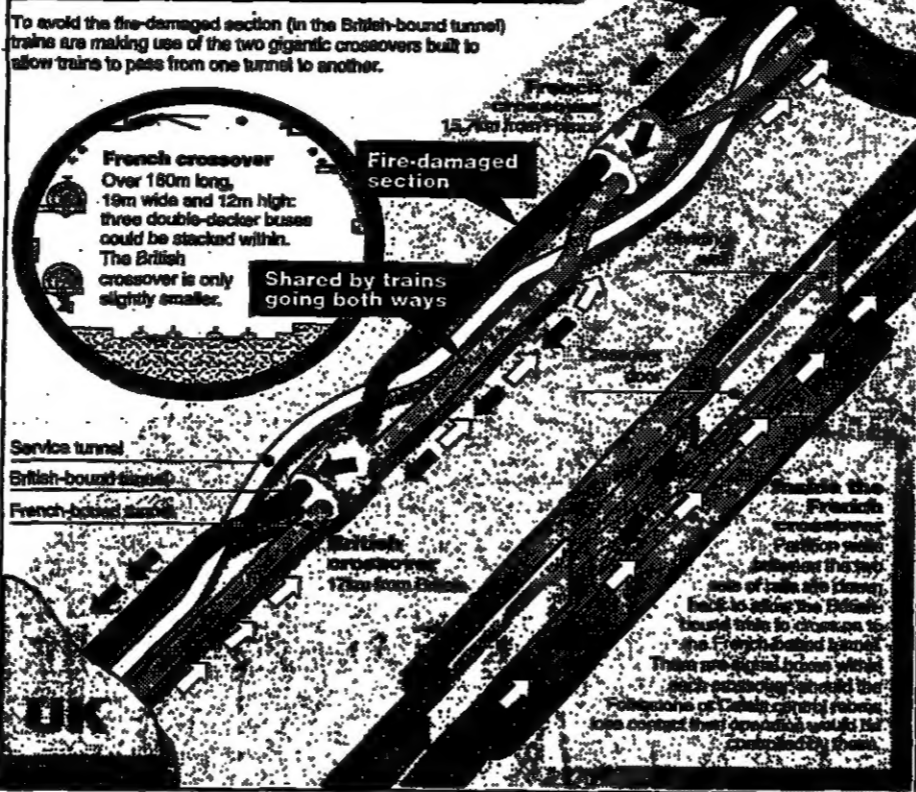
A FIVE-MONTH delay in the full operation of services through the Channel tunnel was forecast by Eurotunnel last night, as it emerged that rail passengers will have to walk up to 1 1/4 miles to safety if they need to be evacuated at the point of last month's fire. Eurostar services resumed yesterday, although the first train of the day left Waterloo without any passengers. It had acquired four by the time it reached Paris. The company said later trains to Paris and Brussels were about 10-15 per cent full and it had taken "hundreds of bookings" for the next few days. But concern that passenger services were being resumed too quickly came from the Fire Brigades' Union, the shadow employment secretary, Andrew Smith, and even some Tory MPs with constituencies on the Channel route. They said Eurotunnel had given no explanation for the fire, which damaged 600 yards of tunnel and track, or why several safeguards had failed. Different evacuation procedures will be brought into play if a fire occurs during repair work in the damaged tunnel section. Passengers will be evacuated into the safe area of the service tunnel and will walk to the nearest alternative rail access point — a maximum distance of 1 1/4 miles — in the other running tunnel to board a tourist Le Shuttle and get out. Eurotunnel's emergency ve-

The questions

The questions Eurotunnel still has not answered:

- Did arson cause the fire?
- Was the wildcat strike of Eurotunnel workers at Calais a contributory factor?
- Why was Calais control not alerted until he had been in the tunnel for two miles?
- Why did it take an hour to alert the Kent fire brigade?
- Why was the driver not alerted until he had been in the tunnel for two miles?
- Why did the driver stop the train?
- Does the incident prove the open latched freight wagons are unsafe?
- Why did the ventilation systems fail to disperse the smoke?
- Why did smoke get into the other, sealed, tunnel?

Crossed lines



hicles will be permanently stationed to tackle the incident and transport disabled, elderly and infirm passengers who are incapable of completing the walk. A longer time of around two hours has been stipulated to clear all passengers from the tunnel. Until the repairs are completed, journeys are likely to take an extra 20 to 30 minutes. A few trains from Brussels to London will take up to 45 minutes longer. The additional time is needed to run trains over the single-line section of tunnel, and then integrate them into the networks of the three railways when they exit the tunnel. To avoid the fire-ravaged section, trains coming from

France are entering the southern tunnel, travelling some 10 1/4 miles before crossing over to the northern tunnel for a further 10 1/4 miles. They then rejoin the southern tunnel again for the final part of their journey. Both Robert Malpas, Eurotunnel's co-chairman, and Adam Mills, Eurostar UK's deputy chairman, rejected suggestions they were putting profit before safety in recommending services. Mr Malpas said: "Safety is absolutely at the top of our list and our prime concern." He said the "safe haven of the service tunnel is totally unaffected by the fire". Asked about a possible return to service of the controversially de-

signed latched freight trains, he said this could not happen until the full inquiry was over. Sources last night suggested that the safety inquiry will recommend that the latched wagons be abandoned as a fire hazard. If so, Eurotunnel would have to abandon an order it has recently placed for new ones. Plans are being drawn up to spray the tunnel with a fire protection coating to raise safety standards. Work is expected to start before Christmas and will cost millions of pounds. Fire coating was proposed to the safety authorities in 1993, but rejected. Letters, page 9

'It was like boarding the Marie Celeste.' Stuart Millar joins the brave

THE normally bustling platforms of London Waterloo's Eurostar terminal were strangely quiet yesterday, despite the resumption of passenger services after a fraught 15 days. Staff assumed their usual positions, but fare-paying passengers who turned up to be among the first through the tunnel after "the incident" were few and far between. "When we found out the train was running at 9pm last night, we were told to get to the station early to make sure we got a seat," said Geraldine Turner, from Kent. "When we got here it was like getting on board the Marie Celeste." She and her friend, Sharon Haydn, were making the trip for lunch and shopping. They were among an international gathering of 23 brave souls

who ventured on to the 7.58 service to Paris Gare du Nord. Their sense of adventure was quickly rewarded — rather than have them spread throughout a train designed to carry a few shy of 800 passengers, all 23 were herded into first class to be pined with free champagne and bottles of Beaujolais Nouveau with a card bearing the legend "Thank you for your loyalty". Perhaps it was the alcohol, but the atmosphere was more of wartime defiance than trepidation, even as the train slowed to the new speed limit of 60mph as it entered the tunnel. "I think the freight sections are very different from the Shuttle or Eurostar," said Mrs Haydn, who claimed she would have walked to Paris rather than ride her annual outing. "A fire on one of the freight trains would be very different from one on this train. We travel on the Shuttle about six times a year so I don't think this trip is a big deal." Her companion agreed. "We are quite happy to go through. It seems to me that you are safest just after a disaster." That sentiment was

echoed by John Townend, MP for Bridlington and leading Tory Euro-sceptic, who was travelling with his wife to a meeting of the Western European Union. "I'm more worried about bombs going off in the Paris underground." As usual, it was up to the Americans to sum up the pioneering spirit, boasting the largest national grouping with 10 passengers. They included David and Andrea Scott, from Minnesota, who booked before the fire and were determined to see it through. As the train reached France after 30 minutes in the tunnel — compared to the normal 21 — Mrs Scott led passengers in a toast to their bravery. Within minutes of leaving Calais, the train manager announced that they had reached our maximum speed of 180mph, whisking us into Paris five minutes early in a total time of just under three and-a-half hours. The Eurostar officials who made the trip could barely contain their pride. "It was a complete anti-climax for our passengers and that's the way it should be," said Phil Bassett, UK trains manager.

Pensions shock for power chiefs

Watchdog orders National Grid to repay £55m to staff fund

Seamus Milne
Labour Editor

THE National Grid has been ordered by the government-appointed Pensions Ombudsman to repay more than £55 million to its pension scheme, in a decision which could cost the whole privatised electricity industry up to £300 million. More than 200,000 pension fund members stand to benefit from the provisional ruling, made in response to a complaint by two pensioners that the privatised electricity transmission firm was wrong to pocket 70 per cent of a £285 million fund surplus in 1992. The money was mainly used to fund redundancies. The company is expected to appeal to the High Court if the decision is confirmed, but a spokesman would only say last night that it was "looking at the implications" and

would respond before the final decision. The ruling by the ombudsman, Dr Julian Farrand, looks certain to intensify the dispute over the appropriation of pension fund surpluses by employers, which was triggered by a 1993 High Court judgment that British Coal could not use nearly £200 million of its staff pension fund to pay for redundancies. Reg Mayes, a 73-year-old retired supergrid engineer — and one of the two men who brought the case against the National Grid and its pension fund trustees — last night described the decision as "very gratifying". He said he hoped to see some modest increase in his £12,000 a year pension as a result. The two men's solicitor, Peter Woods of Stephens Innocent — which took on the case for free — said he believed Dr Farrand's findings would open the way to a flood

of claims throughout the electricity supply industry. "Employers generally take the view that they're entitled to surpluses," he said, "and generally that view is wrong." The power industry pensions controversy goes back to privatisation in 1989, when the Central Electricity Generating Board and regional boards were split into 21 companies, including the National Grid, and the industry's pension fund was divided up in parallel. In 1992, the National Grid fund was found to have an "actuarial surplus" — an excess of assets over expected pension liabilities — of £285 million. That was divided 70-30 between the company and pension fund members, with the firm's share coming to £244 million — or 555 million with interest since 1992. The split was made roughly on the basis of the previous relative employer-employee contributions to the scheme. But trade union opponents of employers' pension "holidays" and surplus appropriations have always argued that

pension funds represent deferred wages and should belong entirely to the members. The National Grid approach was repeated across the industry, with the general firm National Power alone taking £178 million from its pensions surplus to cover early retirement costs. Around £200 million from the pension funds was taken over by the privatised firms. But Dr Farrand has found that National Grid and its pension fund trustees — and by extension the other privatised firms — were wrongly advised that the firm had the legal right to help itself to the members' cash. As well as ordering repayment, he argues that the pension fund rules do not allow the company to take contributions holidays or use surpluses to pay for early retirement. Employment in the electricity industry has been cut from 144,000 to around 92,000 since privatisation and from 8,300 to 3,500 in National Grid. The company recently announced more job cuts over the next three or four years.

Meet the family who put fun in dysfunctional

HOLLY HUNTER ROBERT DOWNEY, JR. ANNE BANCROFT DYLAN MCDERMOTT STEVE GUTTENBERG CHARLES DURNING



A JODIE FOSTER FILM
HOME
FOR THE HOLIDAYS

POLYGRAM FILMED ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS AN EIC PICTURES PRODUCTION HOLLY HUNTER ROBERT DOWNEY, JR. ANNE BANCROFT DYLAN MCDERMOTT STEVE GUTTENBERG CHARLES DURNING
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NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171) 727 6705
AND AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Books G2 page 7

“Going home through the smoke-swirls and the noise, the mock-burial parties for the dead rats that were being covered by the clay from the trenches, the poles tipped with knives clashing in skirmishes, I felt so sick that the flesh seemed to tighten on my bones.”
From Seamus Deane's Reading In The Dark, Guardian Fiction Prize winner

News in brief

Children sedated before being killed

A POLICEMAN'S wife who killed herself and her two sons after the break-up of her marriage, sedated the children before they were overcome by fumes from her car engine, a senior police officer said yesterday.

Sore throat remedies 'waste'

ANTISEPTIC remedies are about as effective for a sore throat as gargling with warm water, the consumer magazine Which? claimed yesterday.

Homosexual kiss 'acceptable'

A HOMOSEXUAL kiss in EastEnders was ruled acceptable yesterday by the Broadcasting Standards Council, which investigated complaints from 41 viewers.

£5m appeal for laser surgery

THE small Yorkshire port of Goole was chosen yesterday as the site for a national laser centre for the day-surgery treatment of cancer patients using optical fibre equipment.

Unconscious woman dies

A WOMAN who gave birth to a daughter while in a coma has died in hospital, Karen Battenough, aged 26, died in Clydach hospital, Swansea, after being unconscious for 22 months.

Cash for 'cool Britannia'

THE UK's "cool Britannia" image helped boost the number of overseas visitors by 2 million to 20.4 million in the first nine months of this year, an 11 per cent rise on the previous year, the Office of National Statistics said.

Attacks follow dispute over cheaper fares

Taxi fire fuels fear of cab war

TAXI OWNER Martin Leonard became suspicious after the wheel nuts on one of his cars became faulty and the brakes on another started to fall.



Martin Leonard of the Darlington Cab Company with a burned out taxi. Mr Leonard claims rival firms have targeted him

Yesterday detectives warned of the potentially fatal consequences from the latest outbreak of "cab wars" in Darlington, Co Durham, as the local council expressed its concern and offered Mr Leonard a helping hand.

waiting and have no meters. Tensions have been high since the council ruled that special tokens for the elderly and disabled could only be used in wheelchair-friendly cabs.

But attempts by drivers to overturn the ruling failed in the High Court, and now the council is taking action against 35 operators to recover its legal costs.

would set fire to a car, but I didn't believe it." He believes the threat has been carried out, destroying a black cab he bought to accommodate the disabled, although police say the fire could have been due to an electrical fault.

plugs don't fall off for no reason, and black cabs don't just burst into flames." He has shut his town centre office for two days to recover.

Nick Wallis, chairman of Darlington's highways and transport committee, said Mr Leonard had been offered every assistance by the council to get a wheelchair-friendly vehicle on the road.

TUC to rule on union race row at Ford

Truck drivers at Dagenham plant want to switch unions over allegations of nepotism and bias

Sarah Bosseley

TO its embarrassment, the TUC has been called in to adjudicate on the decision of 300 truck drivers at Ford's Dagenham plant, heavily involved in a row over racism and nepotism, to switch unions.

the relatively tiny United Road Transport Union, which is not recognised by Ford. They are furious that the T & G has gone to an industrial tribunal alleging discrimination against black assembly line workers who covet the prestige driving jobs that are the highest paid - £30,000 a year - manual work at Ford.

against Ford, but the company leaves most of the selection procedure for the Truckfleet division, where a strike could so easily bring the whole company to a standstill, to its senior drivers.

organised a major festival called Respect in the summer, the TUC will feel under pressure to take some action.

of black people in particular. I would urge URTU once more to desist from this course of action.

racism than the T & G. Mr Morris, he added, "has no right to pre-judge the industrial tribunal - it had yet to be proved that the selection procedure was discriminatory."

Budget problem. Finance solution.

Advertisement for Dell Dimension XPS P133s computer. Features include Intel Pentium processor, 16MB SDRAM, 512Kb cache, 2Gb EIDE hard drive, and HP Deskjet 690c printer. Price: £11.99 per week (£14.09 incl. VAT).

Labour left softens new code

Leaders bow to concerns of dissident MPs by accepting clause in new discipline measure that safeguards debate on policy

Even MacAskill, Chief Political Correspondent

LABOUR dissidents won a significant concession from party leaders yesterday as a code tightening up discipline was adopted.

"Everyone understands that if you are serious about governing the country well you have to be professional and disciplined."

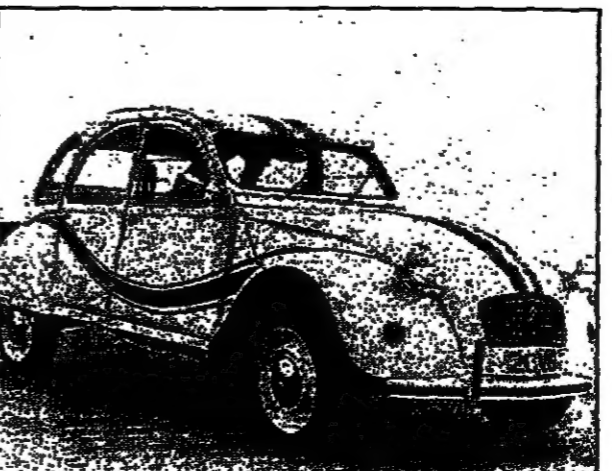
secretary, spoke in favour of the code, saying that disruptive behaviour in government could cost the party the chance of being elected for a second term.

Dennis Canavan, MP for Falkirk West, about not stifling dissent. After tinkering with it, Don Dewar, chief whip, and his colleagues put down their version, which was accepted.

Hyundai gains top spot from Lada and Skoda as hub of bad car jibes

Kennel Ahmed

THE JOKES are numerous, the snigger regular. Now owners of Skodas, Ladas and Citroen 2CVs, old ones at least, will have to put up with a new batch of sarcastic comments.



Citroen 2CV: French design classic with poor resale value

Old bangers

- 1. Hyundai Pony GLS, D-reg, 100,000 miles: Worth: £10
2. Seat Marbella, E-reg, 85,000 miles: £20
3. Skoda 105 saloon, E-reg, 95,000 miles: £30
4. Lada Riva 1200 saloon, F-reg, 85,000 miles: £40
5. FSO 1300 saloon, F-reg, 85,000 miles: £50
6. Lancia Y10 Fire, D-reg, 100,000 miles: £70
7. Lada Samara 1500, F-reg, 85,000 miles: £70
8. Fiat Panda 750L, D-reg, 100,000 miles: £70
9. Citroen 2CV, D-reg, 100,000 miles: £70
10. Ford Fiesta 1.4 Ghia, D-reg, 100,000 miles: £90
Figures based on value to dealers for below average cars

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'teach', 'bug', 'death', 'woman', and '12.9'.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom center of the page.

Court told of panic and pupils hiding in fright as man who was obsessed with mass killers slashed at class at a teddy bears' picnic

Teacher saved machete attack tots

Judge praises courage

Vivak Chaudhary

A NURSERY teacher defended her young pupils from a machete-wielding attacker who was obsessed with two mass killers, a court heard yesterday. Lisa Potts, aged 21, described how she tried to get the children into the school during a teddy bears' picnic as she was being slashed.

Police found newspaper cuttings about Thomas Hamilton, who shot dead 16 children and their teacher in Dunblane last March, and Michael Bryant, who shot dead 35 people in Tasmania, on the bedroom wall of Horret Campbell, accused of seven attempted murders.

The picture of Michael Bryant had a heart and cupid's arrow drawn around it. Lisa Potts, QC, prosecuting, said that Campbell had told police that Bryant and Hamilton had been misunderstood by society and "had been driven to do what they did, namely indiscriminately kill others, just as he had been driven to do what he did."

Campbell, aged 33, who



Horret Campbell: 'driven to do what he did'

'I put up my arm to protect my face and he lashed out at me. He was moving towards me as I was trying to run with lots of children around me'

— Lisa Potts

lived in a tower block overlooking St Luke's Church of England infants school in Bickenhall, Wolverhampton, where the attack took place, denies attempted murder. He has admitted charges of causing grievous bodily harm with intent and one charge of attempting to cause GBH.

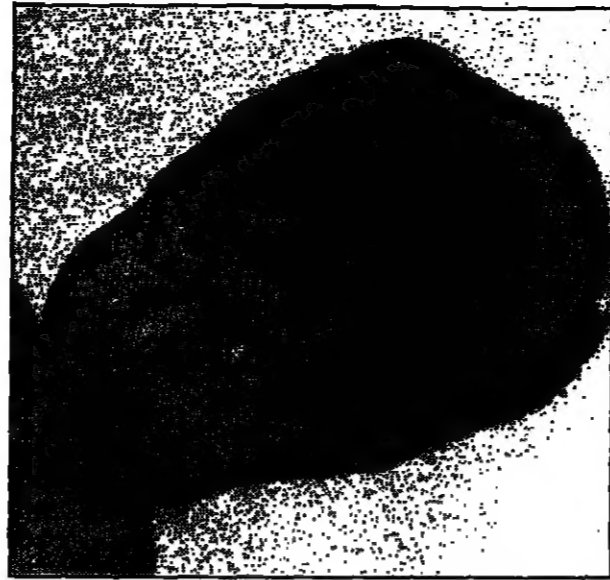
At one stage during the hearing at Stafford crown court yesterday, Ms Potts was handed the blood stained machete used by Campbell. Holding the wooden handle using a plastic glove, she demonstrated the overarm slashing movement Campbell used to slice open four-year-old Francesca Quintyne's face, break-

ing her jaw and lopping off her lower earlobe.

Mr Wakelley said that on the afternoon of July 8, Campbell went into the grounds of St Luke's armed with the machete and attacked three young children, aged between three and four. Ms Potts and three mothers who were waiting outside the school.

A class of 20 children were in the grass area at the side of the school having a teddy bears' picnic.

"A more normal and happy afternoon it is probably impossible to imagine. The attack was indiscriminate. He struck the seven of them mainly about the head, face



Ahmed Malik in hospital, and (right) Lisa Potts, who shepherded children to safety

and upper body, some more than once and some when they were on the ground having been hit. You will not be surprised to learn that most sustained really serious injuries."

Ms Potts said that she saw Campbell attack two of the mothers, Wendy Willington and Surtinder Chopra. She then started running with the children into the school.

"I was then trying to gather the children up. It was crazy from then on. Children were holding on to my skirt and some of them went under-neath. They were hiding with fright."

As she attempted to enter

the school she was confronted by Campbell. "I put up my arm to protect my face and he lashed out at me. He was moving towards me as I was trying to run with lots of children around me."

She then went back to protect other toddlers, putting her arms around them as Campbell slashed at them with the machete. Campbell had used blows of "great force" as he lashed out at the children and her.

Campbell then chased Ms Potts through the nursery class as she attempted to gather the children but despite being hit, she continued running.



Mr Justice Sedley paid tribute to her courage saying that she acted with "great unselfishness".

Earlier, the court heard that the machete used by Campbell had the words "You filthy devil" and "666 marks the devil" written on it.

During the attack, he was wearing a deerstalker hat with an Iron Cross drawn on the side.

After the attack, Campbell returned to his flat, lighting small fires in the tower block as a diversion. He changed clothes and hid in an empty flat until the next day, when he was arrested.

The case continues.

School staff warned not to 'play the hero'

Donald MacLeod Education Correspondent

TEACHERS were warned not to "play the hero" with potentially violent intruders — or parents — as the Government launched a £56 million school security package yesterday.

Extra spending on safety was ordered by Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, following the murder of Philip Lawrence, a London head teacher, and the killing of 16 children and their teacher at Dunblane primary school in Perthshire by the gunman Thomas Hamilton, who then killed himself.

Training for teachers is to be included in the package — funded jointly by central and local government. "Good security involves everyone in the school," said Mrs Shephard.

Leicester university and the Susy Lamplugh Trust — set up by Diana Lamplugh after the disappearance and presumed murder of her daughter Susy — will

research violent incidents in schools, which they believe are at present under-reported.

Tony Dickens, of the trust, said lessons in self-defence could be worse than useless for teachers. "People easily forget what they might have learned on a two day course. Then if they decide to intervene they could very easily get hurt."

"Teachers should not see parents on their own in situations where trouble might arise, or they should not do so behind closed doors," he said.

John Andrew, general secretary of the Professional Association of Teachers, who sat on the Government's school security working group, said he hoped teachers were not being encouraged to "play the hero".

"Part of the training has to be not only what to do but what not to do," he said.

"There are circumstances where the best thing to do is to walk away. What teachers need is training on how to recognise the difference."

Food bug victim may sue as death toll rises to 7

Erin Clouston

THE *E. coli* epidemic in Scotland claimed its seventh victim yesterday as the first shots were fired in what is likely to be a multi-million pound compensation battle.

A 74-year-old Wishaw man who died in Monksland hospital, Airdrie, was one of 21 patients who had been giving cause for concern. The number of suspected cases of food poisoning has risen to more than 330, with confirmed cases rising to 176.

A Glasgow lawyer, Cameron Fyfe, revealed yesterday that a Lanarkshire woman has drawn up plans to sue John Barr and Son, the Wishaw butcher linked to the cooked meat believed to be the source of the infection.

Mr Fyfe said he did not anticipate having to go to court. "From the information I have got, it looks as if it is fairly cut and dried. The law in Scotland says that if you are a supplier of goods and those goods are deficient, then you

are liable." The unnamed single mother and her family all required hospital treatment after allegedly buying meat from an outlet that received meat from Barr's premises.

Mr Fyfe said if his client goes ahead with her claim she would be seeking a four-figure sum from the butcher's insurers in compensation for her distress.

Other victims could be eligible for claims above £100,000, if it is proved that the contaminated meat affected vital organs.

The butcher's position has not been helped by the disclosure that his shop allegedly supplied cold meat for the 18th birthday party of Lauren MacFarlane in Wishaw within two hours of a second official request that he withdraw such products from sale.

In a statement yesterday, Lauren and her parents, William and Fay MacFarlane, said they too were considering legal action after at least three guests fell ill, apparently as a consequence of eating meat provided by

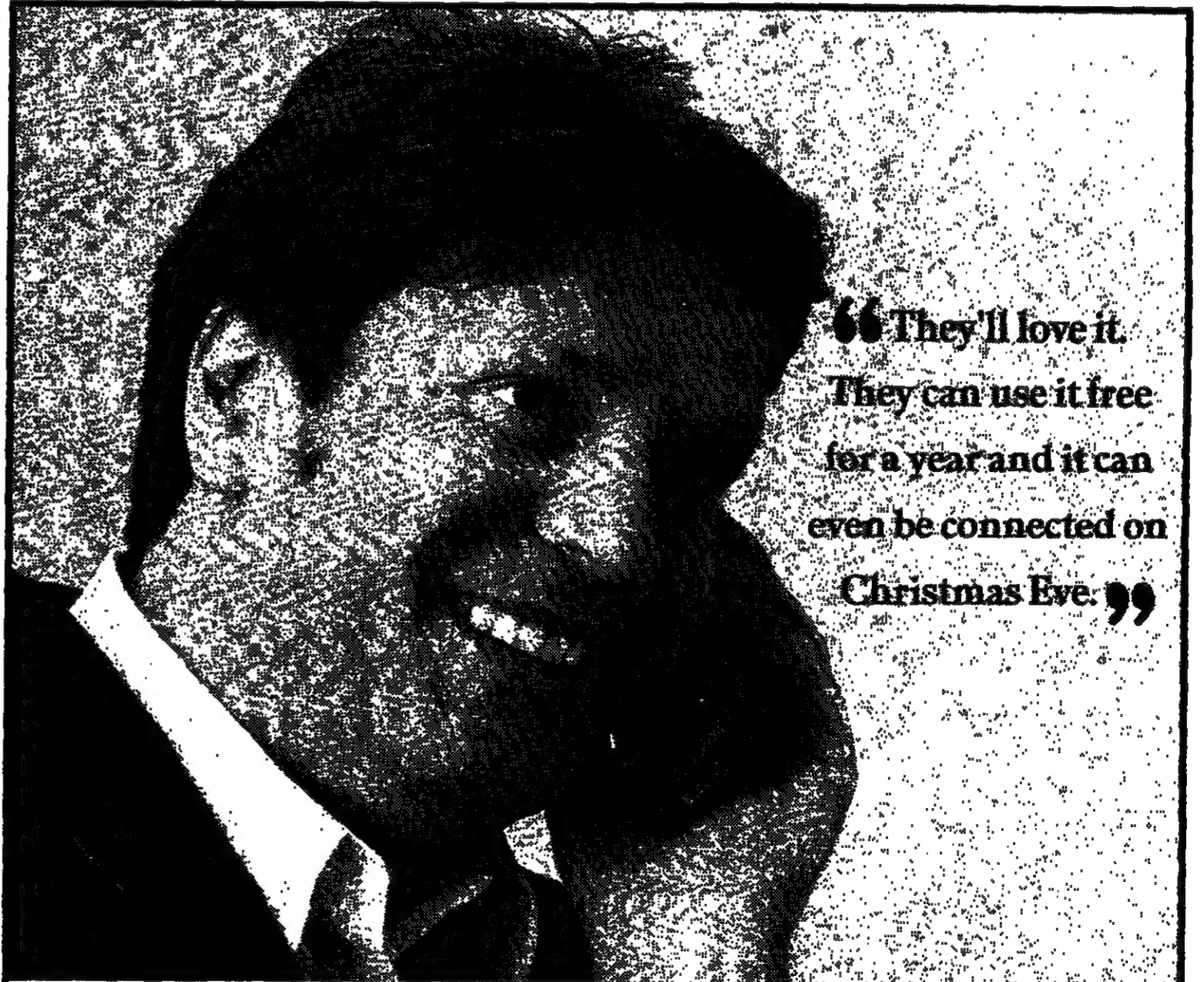
Scotland's current butcher of the year.

The family claimed that the uncle who collected the sandwich fillings on the morning of November 23 had telephoned the shop to confirm that the meat would be safe to eat.

The statement also alleged that Mrs MacFarlane was twice told to "go ahead and have a good time at the party" when she double-checked that evening with the press office at Law hospital, Carluke.

Environmental health officers from North Lanarkshire council had visited Mr Barr on the evening of November 22 and again early on November 23 asking him to take the suspect product off his shelves.

The outbreak has put a strain on the resources of the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service as it tries to keep pace with the demand for fresh plasma, used to flush *E. coli*-generated toxins out of the bloodstream, according to a spokesman at the launch of the service's Christmas appeal.



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Mafia woman loses case

THE daughter of a Mafia boss who worked as a barmaid in Lancashire yesterday failed in the High Court to block her extradition to Italy, where she is wanted on drug trafficking charges.

Maria Merico, aged 26, asked two judges to rule that moves to send her back to Italy were "unjust and oppressive" as there had been too long a delay in bringing proceedings.

Her counsel, Owen Davies, told the judges: "The question in this case is whether the sins of the father have been visited on the daughter."

He said that the father, Emilio Di Giovanni, was in jail in Portugal for drug offences

and therefore would not be available to give evidence in her defence against allegations that she was his "right-hand woman".

The memories of witnesses would have faded over the years since the date of the offences of which Merico was accused. Her trial would be prejudiced as a result.

Mr Davies said extradition would be oppressive because Merico, a single mother and a British citizen, was trying to provide a life in England for her five-year-old daughter, Lana.

Rejecting her plea for a writ of habeas corpus freeing her from custody, Lord Justice Phillips, sitting with Mr Jus-

tice Hooper, said that the delay was not so great as to be prejudicial to her trial in Italy.

Her daughter was being cared for by relatives, and Merico's house in Pooleton, Fyde, near Bishopton, had been sold to meet a court order requiring her to account for the proceeds of drug trafficking to the tune of £80,000.

Therefore she had "no roots in this country which it would be oppressive to disturb by sending her back to Italy".

Merico faces up to 15 years in jail if she is found guilty in Italy on four charges of trafficking in cocaine, heroin and hashish. The smuggling operations were alleged to have taken place from Spain and Morocco to Milan and Florence.

Merico was arrested in April, immediately after serving a jail sentence in this country for smuggling £1.8 million of Mafia drugs money — said to have been the proceeds of her father's activities into Britain, hidden in a cot.

During the extradition proceedings, armed policemen guarded London's Bow Street magistrates' court, as it was alleged that Merico herself was linked to violent crimes which had been committed during the reign of a 200-strong Mafia gang in Milan and Florence.

The court heard Merico had lived in Italy from a very early age but had returned to England after her mother and father separated when she was nine years old, and had grown up in Pooleton-Fyde.

At the age of 18 she pursued her contact with her father and moved to Italy.

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Hague judges accuse London conference on Bosnia of sidelining efforts to bring offenders to justice

War crimes 'downgraded'

John Palmer in Brussels and Ian Black, Diplomatic Editor

THE 11 judges of the international war crimes tribunal in The Hague yesterday accused the London conference on Bosnia of downgrading the attempt to bring indicted war criminals to trial.

There was tough talk from Western leaders at the two-day conference, warning war criminals that their time was up. Bosnian leaders were told to comply more fully with the Dayton peace accords, or find help diminishing and sympathy waning.

But the judges said, "This essential aspect is not reflected in the programme. It is also regrettable that the international tribunal has not been invited to attend the conference as a participant, but only as an observer."

British officials insisted that the tribunal was in attendance — in the form of its chief prosecutor, Judge Louise Arbour — and on terms identical to previous Bosnia conferences.

Opening yesterday's London meeting, the Prime Minister, John Major, set the tone by promising to continue to help Bosnia's reconstruction.

But he added: "International help will be conditional on the willingness in Bosnia and Herzegovina to implement all aspects of the peace agreement."

France 'tipped off about bombs'

Paul Webster in Paris

THE probability that Algerian Islamic extremists planted the bomb which killed two people on a Parisian commuter train on Tuesday evening strengthened yesterday with the revelation that the French secret services were tipped off more than a month ago.

As security measures were stepped up in city centres, police studied reports from foreign intelligence services in Afghanistan and the Middle East on the expected arrival of an Algerian commando allegedly preparing a bombing campaign.

Although police deny that the security operation set up after the 1995 bombing wave had been wound down before the explosion at Port Royal station on the RER express urban rail network, internal inquiries have begun into an apparent lack of vigilance.

An official source confirmed that there had been warnings in recent weeks of preparations for an attack by the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), which is involved in a civil war in Algeria. The chances of an attack increased with the weekend referendum in Algeria which approved the exclusion of religious bodies from politics.

Rabah Kebir, an exiled leader of Algeria's outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), condemned the attack yesterday, saying that bombing innocent people served "neither the cause of Algeria nor the cause of Islam".



French troops prepare assault rifles for patrols near Eurostar trains at the Gare du Nord station in Paris yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: MICHEL SINGLER

terrorist suspect had been followed from Afghanistan to the Middle East since September after reports that he was planning to attack French interests. Early last month a four-man Algerian commando was reported to be heading for France. Their names were known and may have been obtained when Italian police rounded up a GIA logistical group early in November.

Yesterday French detectives resumed questioning of the police in several European centres, notably London, which is considered a possible Islamic extremist refuge, as Brussels, Copenhagen and some German cities. In November last year Rachid Ramda, alias Abou Fares, was arrested as a GIA suspect in London.

Investigators were also re-examining faxed communiqués sent two months ago by Antar Zouabri, who is believed to co-ordinate GIA activities from a secret base. The communiqués, reproduced in an internal bulletin, said that new attacks against France were justified and that

the GIA intended to pursue policies started by the movement's deposed leadership, which was linked to last year's violence in Paris and Lyon. The method, timing and location of Tuesday's bomb linked it to the GIA, which did not publicly claim any of last year's explosions but gave unpublished details in internal bulletins.

Similar gas canister bombs were used on several occasions in 1995, starting with an attack on the RER on July 25, which killed eight people, and ending on October 17, when 19 people were hurt in a similar operation.



One of dozens of billboards in Moscow featuring Svetlana

PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID BRALICLI

From a Russian with love

James Mack in Moscow

MOST Muscovites, cynical by nature, suspected the giant billboards were a trick to make them buy something they did not want.

Others saw the adverts, featuring a beautiful woman gazing adoringly at all and sundry with the message "I love you", as the latest wheeze by the mayor, Yuri Luzhkov, to bring the feelgood factor to the gloomy winter.

of "New Russia", or possibly in an example of monstrous egotism, the advertising campaign turns out to be strictly a one-to-one affair between a shoe salesman and his wife.

Alexander Sharapov, the 30-year-old boss of the Moscow shoe firm Vena Moda Austria, has spent, advertising executives estimate, tens of thousands of pounds swamping the city with gift by gift images of his wife Svetlana's face.

He says he did it partly to compensate her for disrupting her modelling career, but mainly out of love. "I wanted people to understand that business is business, but that the Russian soul is not an empty expression," he told *Commerzant* magazine.

Svetlana said: "What do I feel now, passing by the posters? A perfect high." The country's nouveaux riches, and their extravagant and ostentatious gestures, are increasingly fascinating ordinary Russians: many are becoming stars of a growing gossip industry in the media.

The presidential election campaign of the parvenu pharmaceutical baron Vladimir Bryntsalov consisted of him and his wife flaunting their luxury lifestyle. In the latest issue of the business journal *Profil* young tycoons boast about their expensive tastes in cigarette lighters.

Greek farmers block European trade artery

Helena Smith in Athens

GREECE remained divided in two and sealed off from its neighbours for the seventh day running yesterday as thousands of irate farmers continued a crippling blockade by tractors, farm vehicles and makeshift camps in protest at the government's economic austerity programme.

Since erecting the first 100 barricades in a show of opposition against the unpopular fiscal measures of the prime minister, Costas Karamanlis, the farmers have effectively cut Greece in half by blocking along the country's main north-south road.

The police reported growing numbers of marooned international lorries. Temperatures became particularly strained in the western port of Patras, where lorry drivers have been stranded longest. Elsewhere, British drivers are spearheading a revolt.

Among them, adding to the mayhem, British lorry drivers led a head-tempered, multi-national counter-blockade yesterday, thrown up in a fit of pique by truckers protesting that the Greek police were doing nothing to help.

It is the second time in two weeks — after the blockade of Calais — that British drivers have been trapped by roadside action on the continent. But nothing at Calais could compare with these scenes — a ragtag army of more than 10,000 colourful tractors, some festooned with Christmas trees and decorations, has now fanned out across Greece, seizing toll booths and blocking national road and rail links at more than 40 strategic points.

The police reported growing numbers of marooned international lorries. Temperatures became particularly strained in the western port of Patras, where lorry drivers have been stranded longest. Elsewhere, British drivers are spearheading a revolt.

The farmers' plastic-tent shelters, some with tables and chairs set out and amply laid with food and drinks, line the motorways. Increasing numbers have taken to bringing their sitting room furniture along with them to settle down in comfort.

In a desperate attempt to lift the siege, the Socialist government scrambled to find a compromise solution yesterday, agreeing to hold emergency negotiations with the farmers. But the initial retreat from farmers was a threat to stay out in their tent cities "until Christmas and beyond".

Since erecting the first 100 barricades in a show of opposition against the unpopular fiscal measures of the prime minister, Costas Karamanlis, the farmers have effectively cut Greece in half by blocking along the country's main north-south road.

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The Guardian Thursday December 5 1996

Blast off heralds new era in Mars exploration

Nasa's probe will help answer the question tantalising scientists: was there life on the Red Planet? **Tim Radford reports**

A NASA spacecraft with a robot rover on board began a 310 million mile journey to Mars yesterday, after two false starts.

The Mars Pathfinder lander — the second United States probe in a month — is due to float down by parachute and bounce gently to rest on airbags on the surface of the Red Planet on July 4 1997.

It will be the first visit for 21 years, since the Viking lander probes made an initial tentative exploration of Mars, and pronounced it dead.

This time things are different. Nasa's instruments are designed to detect evidence of water, and therefore proof of at least bygone life.

Since August, scientists in the US and Britain believe they have identified circumstantial evidence of microbial life in at least two separate Martian meteorites of wildly different ages.

Martian exploration has a long history — the Soviet Union launched its first attempt in 1960 — but now the stakes are higher.

Russia's latest attempt, which was to have been the second of three shots at Mars in a month, crashed in the Pacific with several British experiments on board on November 19.

The first of the series, Mars

Global Surveyor, was a new version of Nasa's Mars Observer, which suddenly went silent as it reached Mars in 1992.

With precedents like these, Nasa has taken no chances. It delayed a launch on Monday because of the weather, and on Tuesday because of a computer glitch.

Yesterday the mission shot out of Earth's orbit and tilted towards a Martian rendezvous at 23,000mph.

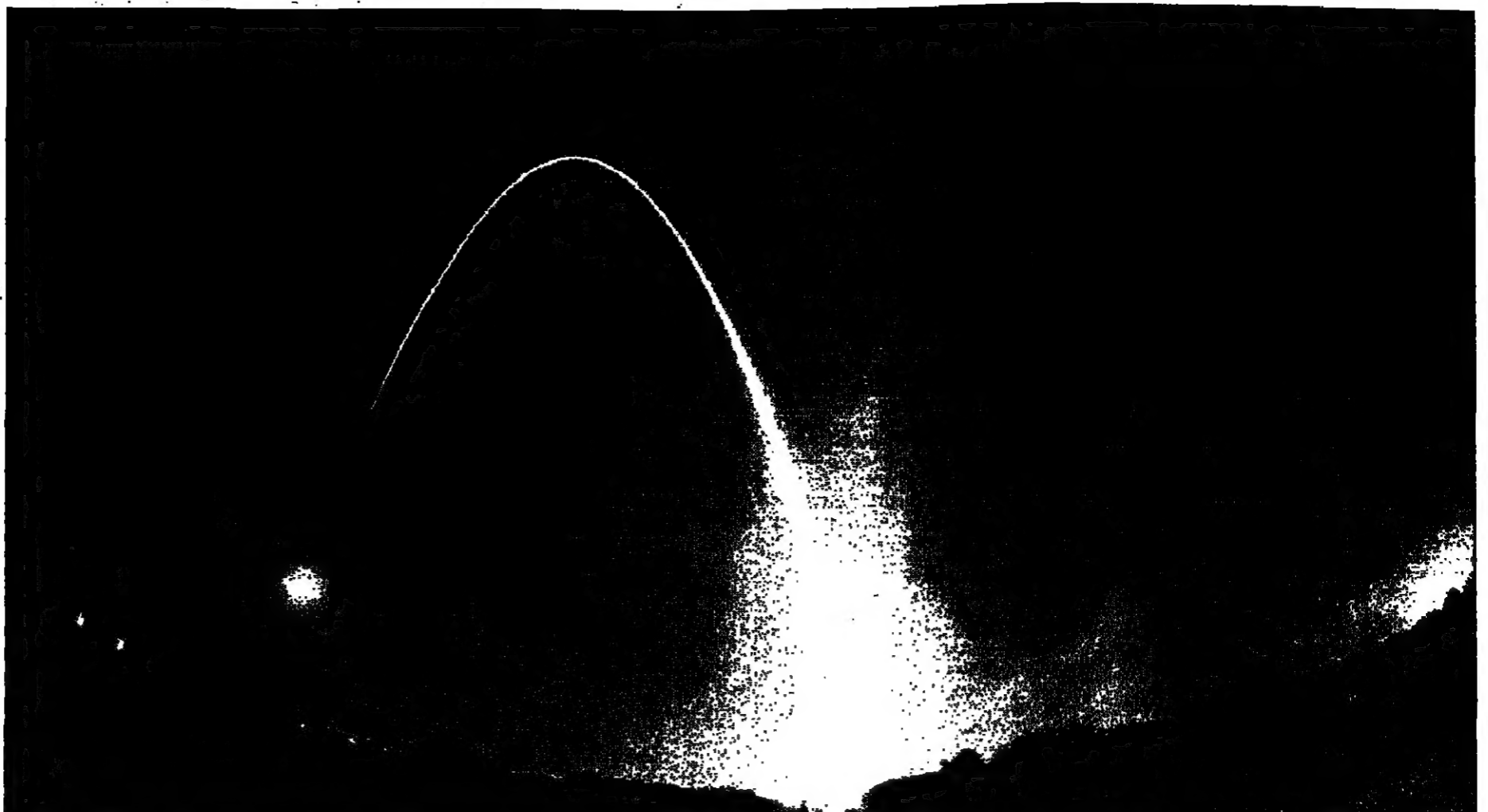
"It is like a friend going away — but it is a good feeling because that was the ultimate goal," said Cheick Diarra, a navigator at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

Pathfinder took off with one potential problem, however: low voltage on a navigation device.

Although the last of the launches this year, it will be the first to arrive.

It will make a direct "hit" on the Martian atmosphere at 17,000mph. Within two minutes, the friction of the encounter will slow the craft to 900mph, at which point the onboard computers will pay out a large parachute. This will slow the lander to 150mph in an atmosphere 100 times thinner than Earth's.

Then, about 100 yards above the surface, airbags will inflate underneath the



The rocket carrying Nasa's probe is shown in a time-exposure shot lifting off from Cape Canaveral and passing by the rising moon to the left. PHOTOGRAPH: MIKE BROWN

lander and the spacecraft will bounce — probably a dozen times — to rest on what scientists believe is a rocky plain once scoured by floods in a region called Ares Vallis.

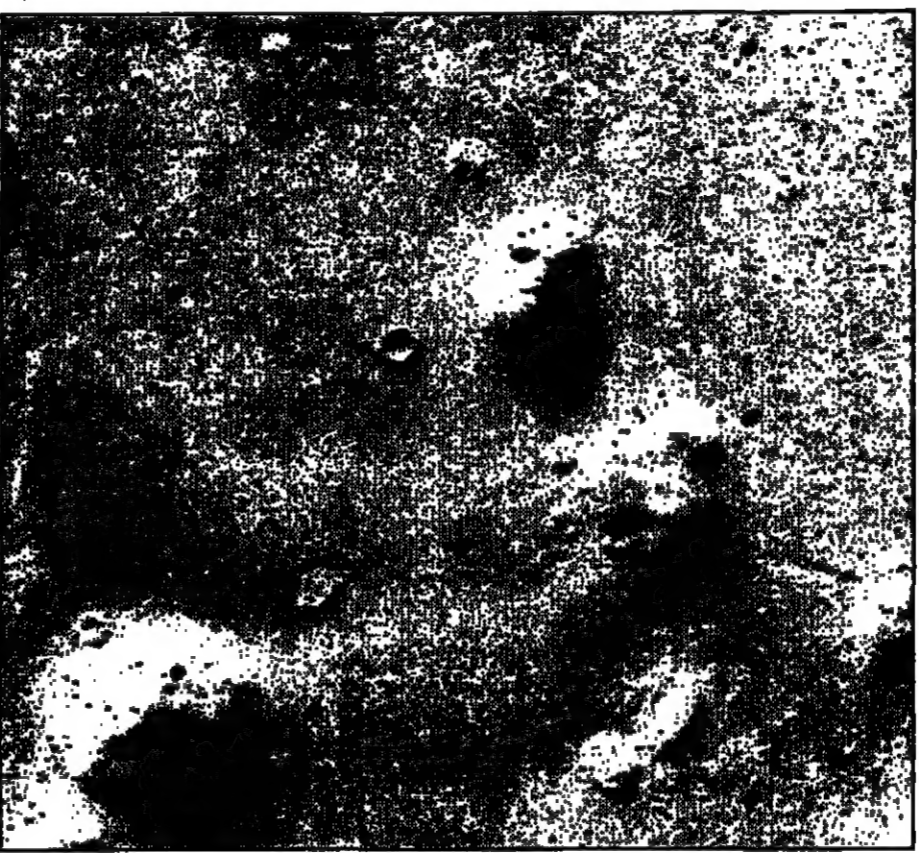
Petals of the spacecraft will unfold, two ramps will slide down, and a six-wheeled, 10kg rover called Sojourner will beetle down and begin examining the nearby rocks, relaying information back to Earth.

Two months later the Global Surveyor will arrive and begin a series of orbits around the Red Planet. It will spend at least two years mapping the topography and measuring mineral distribution, and will transmit daily Martian weather reports back to Earth.

It will also photograph — if it gets a chance — the notorious "Face of Mars" in the Cydonia region.

Japan will launch its Planet B mission to Mars in 1998, and there will be one more Nasa surveyor and one more lander. There may also be two more landers on the Martian ice cap in 1999, and more missions are planned by Nasa in 2001, 2003 and 2005.

The ultimate goal, announced years ago by President George Bush, who conspicuously failed to announce any funds for the project, is a human landing on Mars.



Controversy surrounding the so-called 'Face of Cydonia', photographed 20 years ago, has been increased by the discovery of evidence of microbial life in meteorites from Mars

Riddle of the Martian 'face'

TWENTY years ago, the Viking missions produced tantalising images of the surface of Mars, including the notorious "Face of Cydonia".

Planetary scientists called it an "artefact" — a trick of light and angle. UFO-watchers firmly believed otherwise. They saw the face, and other features mapped by Viking, as evidence of an ancient civilisation on Mars, perhaps wiped out in the cataclysm which stripped away the Martian oceans and atmosphere.

For 20 years scientists have shaken their heads. All the evidence from the Viking mission showed that Mars was dead and inhospitable to life.

But this view has changed. In the past 10 years biologists have been finding microbial life in improbable, and even what were once thought impossible, places on Earth — deep in the darkest abysses of the oceans, at very high

temperatures in volcanic vents, in lakes of sulphuric acid and alkaline swamps, and at crushing pressures deep in the Earth's crust.

They have "awakened" bacteria from inside the stomachs of frozen mammoths, from inside the bricks of Inca pyramids, and even from inside the stomachs of bees trapped in amber millions of years ago. Serious scientists talked of the possibility of bygone life surviving on Mars — if there was water.

In August, and again in October, United States and British scientists identified evidence of microbial life in meteorites known to have come from Mars.

The Pathfinder and Mars Global Surveyor missions are not looking specifically for life, but for evidence of water, now or in the past.

Neither craft will be looking for traces of vanished civilisations — but if the Mars orbiter camera catches the Face of Cydonia, it will relay the picture to Earth.

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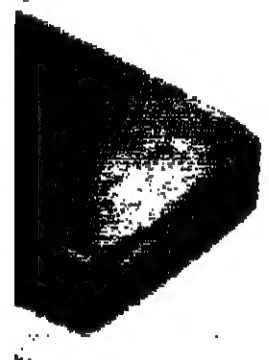
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Diary Matthew Norman

THE £6 million spent on refurbishing the House of Commons tea room and its kitchen over the summer was not, it seems, enough. So dissatisfied are MPs that managers have now put out a little complaints book, and this is filling up. "Daylight robbery having to pay £1.30 for a slice of ham," thunders junior education minister Cheryl Gillan. Robert Key, Tory MP for Southbury, has no problem with the food, as you'd guess from his giggle, but is displeased about the crockery: "No mugs in the morning" is his complaint.

THAT lovable chump Gyles Brandreth is in the wars again. The MP's puzzle page is absent again from OLI magazine, while his navigational problems continue in Chester. A few weeks after getting lost on the way to the football ground, Gyles has become confused about his constituency boundaries, sending hundreds of letters to electors in Bangor, which lies in the Ellenore Port and Neston seat of Labour's Andrew Miller. "In the four years I have had the privilege of being your MP," boasted Gyles in his misadventure, "I have made it a priority to keep in touch." Min.

THE new edition of Progress - Dolly Draper's DIY manual for aspirant New Labour weenies - contains a readership survey, and one question asks "which public figure reflects your political opinions most closely". Among the 11 listed are Tony Blair, Ken Livingstone, Gordon Brown and Robin Cook... but who can this be, between Neil Kinnock and John Prescott? Good Lord, it's Peter Maddison. Oofy West Professor confirms this refers to Mandy Mandelson, but denies an intended slight. "I'm sure it was nothing to do with Dolly Draper," Oofy rapidly rebuts. "I'm sure it was just a printing mistake." Was it indeed?

TWO days after we refused his demand for an apology, for the story of how Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber had a theatre's toilet cleared so he could pee alone, his PR man Tim Bell responds. "If you got off the telephone from time to time," he writes straggly, "people would be able to respond to your enquiries." How weird: the phone's "call waiting" beeping device must be faulty. "Repeating your silly insulting story does not make it any more true." Or, of course, any less. No, we stick by the story, and pose this baffler: how is it that our sources failed to notice Sir Tim, who claims to have spent every moment of the evening at the composer's side? This remains a matter of the gravest national importance: the search for the truth goes on.

SETTING a fine example to soldiers everywhere, Defence Secretary Forthill - "Folly" to his German counterpart Volker Rube - has been spotted in flight from News Bunny. During the recent row over the sale of his constituency association to McDonald's, the English independence reports that Folly drove home one evening to see the Live TV rabbit on his doorstep. Instantly, he turned the car around and fled, later confessing that he was determined not to be in the same camera shot as a six-foot rabbit. What a wuss.

Advert for a German-made insecticide has been withdrawn in Guatemala, reports the Fortean Times, after shareholders' fears that the slogan "Sudden death is a German speciality" - a reference to the Euro96 penalty shoot-out - was open to misinterpretation.



British Airline (Eurostar) Ltd (1995) Regd in England. London. Registered Office: 25 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. Telephone: 020 7497 0000

Inside John Major's tortured soul

Commentary Hugo Young

WHEN they open up the late John Major, as he has whimsically observed, they will find Maastricht engraved on his heart. A tour of his living mind, five years after the treaty that set Europe on the way to economic and monetary union, would yield, I guess, something less than a definitive etching. It is stained with defiance and regret, with bitterness and yet an implacable need for vindication. It is yellowed with scepticism, but also refulgent with belief.

He still believes the project ought to fail. He thinks the original Six, with their new outsiders in Spain, Sweden and Austria, will reach convergence only by fiddling the figures. Actually, the evidence for this is doubtful. At present the largest obstruction to progress is not Britain's long-discounted hostility but Germany's determination to drive the hardest bargain. It's not clear that Germany will soften, and it's certain she won't do so before the Dublin summit. More likely, it will be well into next year before the position is clear. But it suits the Tory Euro-sceptics, who are now beyond recall to any genuine scepticism, to caricature the position as yet another stitch-up, and the Prime Minister does not dispute them.

He has also come to believe that the inherent case against EMU supersedes the case in its favour. The amount of which he draws a line down the middle and checks out the balance of argument, now finds a longer list on the anti side than the pro. He doesn't fancy standing up in the House of Commons to defend a macro-economic policy over which he has lost control. The thing he thought would never happen is now laid out before him with all its dismal implications for the man in his position, the local accounting officer for tax and spending.

So Mr Major is a sceptic. He has grown more sceptical by the year, as he has grown more tactical, to so little avail, by the month, the week and latterly the day. He is also, however, a negotiator on both the international (European) and the domestic (Conservative) stage. He hesitates to follow the logic of the phobos-sceptics for reasons even more substantial than the need to satisfy Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine. He does have to keep them sweet. But just as the

great error of pro-EU Tories was to see him once as a principled European, so the great error of the anti-EU Tories is to think that the only reason he takes his present line is because he has given in to the big beasts.

Nostalgia for glory freezes us in the past



Isabel Hilton

FORGETTING your history is said to be the besetting sin, the thing that condemns you to repeat it, but I wonder. Senator Mitchell observed at a lunch in London recently that he sometimes felt that there was entirely too much history in Ireland, too much memory to allow anyone to live in the present. As I wade through a renewed spate of second world war stories, I begin to feel the same about Britain, am surprised by the sense of weariness that creeps over me as I read again about Nazi submarines and Argentina, about the Duke of Windsor's Nazi sympathies or about the allegedly shocking revelation that men with what the Nazis called "Jewish blood" fought in the German armed forces during the war.

commercial case goes, there has to have been a secret. It is the uncovering of the secret - at least as far as the publisher's hype goes - that sells history, not the brilliance of the exposition or the analysis. The problem is that the selling of history primarily for its secret-busting qualities produces distortions and hype. The "Hitler's Jewish Soldiers" story in this week's Daily Telegraph was only the latest in an undistinguished line: the fact that men with one or three Jewish grandparents had served in the German armed forces was presented, falsely, as a revelation and, worse, gave the headline-writers an opportunity - which they rushed at - for anti-Semitic innuendo. No matter how vigorously historians like Anthony Glees of Brunel University protest that such men thought of themselves as German, not Jewish, and point out that all this has long been known - it's the original story that will linger in the collective memory.

A US company is being allowed to ship here soya beans genetically engineered to resist a herbicide. They will be used, unlabelled, in processed food. Nico Ladenis won't have them in his kitchen

Soya beans go bananas



DON'T like my tomatoes larger, I don't want them redder. Longer-lasting bananas make me sick of bananas, and soya beans that resist germs remind me of mad doctors with German accents and gurgling flasks in laboratories creating humans, or vegetables or fruits. The age of Frankenstein is upon us.

The relentless pursuit of cheap food is causing very serious problems. I commend the efforts but suspect the motives. Big food-manufacturing companies, supermarkets and retailers are the main handlers of what we eat from the farm to our tables. They should be our scouts and sentinels. Instead, the consumer relies on voluntary bodies of committed individuals and groups like Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace to sound the alarm and to crusade with passion and honesty. They never have much to gain and they are always honest in their appeals.

Save the gifted amateurs in the Lords

Robert Cranborne claims that hereditary peers are increasingly coming to represent the common man in Parliament

THE Labour Party holds that the hereditary peerage is an anachronism and should be removed from Parliament. It is, it says, unacceptable that in 1996 a man should have the right to sit in Parliament simply because he is his father's eldest son. Furthermore, there is an inbuilt Tory majority in the House of Lords which occasionally frustrates the will of a Tory majority in the House of Commons, but which far more frequently frustrates the will of a Labour government and they have statistics to prove it.

from which politicians have not escaped. The amateur is never wholly disinterested. No man can be. However, he is less interested in climbing the greasy pole than the professional. It is helpful to the body politic for Parliament to contain a body of amateur politicians. The only such body we now have is the hereditary peerage, and it is a body chosen by lot. The inventors of democracy - the Athenians - would say that was the fairest system of all. As it happens this body of amateurs is changing its nature quite rapidly. Traditionally the public sees the hereditary peerage as a collection of clueless wonders who live on their broad acres shooting and hunting anything that moves, weak in the arm and weak in the head: people like me, in fact. The reality is rather different.

Increasingly the amateur politicians who make up the hereditary peerage are coming to represent the common man in Parliament. They owe no favours to patronage. They are not paid. They do it, dare I say it, from a sense of duty and of privilege. They are not a group to be despised in an otherwise specialist House of Lords and in a bicameral legislature dominated by an elected chamber composed of professional politicians.

the latest score is also, possibly, the most insidious. Now we have the essent of the genetically engineered soya bean: who knows what horrors future generations will experience? The choice whether to eat beef is obvious. I assure you, see it. You can eat it or you can reject it. Not so with soya beans. Their use in by-products is so extensive it can slip through our guard with ease, and being vigilant may not be enough. What we need is pressure: pressure high enough to create potential horrors and pressure as consumers to reject what we have assessed to be unsafe.

Advertisement for Woodstock Hardwood Floors. Text: "HARDWOOD FLOORS WITH A DIFFERENCE". Includes a list of services, contact information for Woodstock Floors Limited, and a note about 12 months interest free credit availability.

Edison Denisov

A place in the sun for Soviet music

OF THE three composers who dominated Soviet music after the death of Shostakovich, Edison Denisov, who has died aged 67, as the eldest, became the leader and protector of young composers...

Far East — would make their way to Denisov's Moscow home knowing his door was open. Sometimes they would find themselves sitting on a sofa next to a real live Western composer: Luigi Nono, perhaps, or Henri Dutilleul or Pierre Boulez.

Denisov was one of the most influential Russian composers and teachers of his age. But he was also a bridge, a man who devoted much of his life to bringing Russian music and musicians, so long isolated and of necessity turned in on their own preoccupations, back into contact with the international musical community.

anathema to the still largely Stalinist union of composers. One of his first successes, the chamber cantata The Sun of the Insects (1964), reflects an enthusiasm for Boulez's Le Marteau sans Maître (Denisov's piece is dedicated to the Frenchman). Thereafter, French themes were important in Denisov's output.

He was studying mathematics at Tomsk when he sent compositions to Shostakovich

with the international musical community. But the contact Denisov sought was by no means one-way. A passionate patriot and a believer in the Russian tradition, he wanted Russian music to flourish under the same sun as other kinds of music.

Edison Denisov was born in the Siberian city of Tomsk, the son of an engineer and a doctor. His first name reflects his parents' typically early Soviet enthusiasm for "scientific" rather than Christian names.

His childhood musical experiences were haphazard and it was not until he was studying mathematics at Tomsk University that he plucked up the courage to send his first compositions to Shostakovich.

In 1951, with Shostakovich's warm encouragement and at the second attempt, Denisov entered the Moscow Conservatoire. After graduation, he stayed on, teaching counterpoint and analysis and, later, orchestration.

Dan Flavin

Turning a bright light on minimal art

DAN FLAVIN, who has died of complications from diabetes aged 63, was one of the leading exemplars of minimal art in the 1960s. Although rarely shown in this country, Flavin, along with his contemporaries Don Judd and Carl Andre, had an important influence on the direction of contemporary art internationally.

Flavin's permanent light installations, climbing through the stairwell of New York's Dia Foundation is a playful and somewhat unassuming experience, managing at once to be cheerful in its colour, and sickly and vertigo-inducing in its effect on visitors.

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Dan Flavin... straddling the worlds of minimalist rigour and painterly lyricism with influential works in fluorescent strip



Edison Denisov... part of the Soviet Union's 'holy trinity' who helped protect younger composers

to write virtuosic solo parts, but to stretch and elaborate his rich orchestral technique as well. He wrote many songs and cycles of songs, including settings of Pushkin and Blok.

For the last four years, Denisov suffered the effects of a nearly fatal car crash and later inoperable cancer. He continued, even during long periods of chemotherapy in a Paris hospital, to work producing two more concertos, a completion and orchestration of Schubert's oratorio Lazarus, and a second symphony.

He leaves a wife, Ellen, three sons, two daughters and seven grandchildren. He was married to Ellen in 1959, including the Broadway Music Corporation at the end of the decade. This was run by Albert von Tilzer, who had penned the Andrews Sisters hit 'I'll Be With You in Apple Blossom Time' and what became the American baseball anthem 'Take Me Out to the Ball Game'.

Edison Vasilevich Denisov, composer, born April 6, 1929; died November 24, 1996

Jackdaw



Eat Cake

EVERY year, just after Thanksgiving, writes Truman Capote in A Christmas Memory, an elderly cousin would wake up and officially announce, "It's fruitcake weather!"

ants were gathered, Capote and his cousin would head home to the kitchen where a big, black stove glowed. "Eggs beaters whirl, spoons spin round in bowls of butter and sugar," Capote writes. "I feel like I'm right there with them, sharing their delight in the exotic, jewel-like fruits, the mysterious spices, the sinful whiskey."

cake and shattered every bone in my right foot." The American foodie mag Saveur (motto: "Savour a World of Authentic Cuisine") on literary seasonal pleasures.

so, although Lyle Lovett looks the part and Arnie has the accent, Tom Cruise will probably get the job, armed with a T-shirt and a mouthful of bouffant coiffure personally teased out by the great José ("Mamma! You look like bees! Bees! Bees! Bees!").

fourth Stooze. Monk does his best to lend Russell dignity and stature, but that's the way it comes out, like a fanfare from a whoopee cushion. It took Russell a long time to get here. While he was alive, he was a sage. Even in his last phase, when he recklessly allowed himself to be set up as the star turn in various World Peace pant shows that had little to do with any known world and nothing to do with peace, he was regarded as, at worst, a supermind whose bonnet had been unaccountably penetrated by fashionable bees. In his early life, he was universally assumed to be a genius. For all most of us know, he was.

Game Golf AT THE 1966 British Open at Muirfield Phil Rodgers taught me a way of escaping from what seemed like an impossible situation in the sand when the ball is near the rear bank or wall of a bunker

that is too steep to permit a normal swing... stabilise yourself for a hard hit by wriggling your feet deep into the sand. Once you are secure, simply pick the club straight up by folding your arms exactly as you would chop an axe into a log lying on the ground. Then hit down hard with your right hand about two inches behind the wall. Your objective is to chop out by burying the club-

head in the sand behind it, so forget about a follow-through. If Jack Nicklaus writes that this works (as he does in Golf Monthly), it works. You wish.

Edward Kassner

Publisher with an ear for a hit round the clock

TEN YEARS before the Beatles, a song called Rock Around the Clock changed the face of popular music. The rights to it outside the US were acquired by Edward Kassner, an Austrian-born music publisher who has died aged 76, for an advance of \$250. Written by Tin Pan Alley veteran Max Freedman and publisher Jimmy Myers (who used the pen-name of Jimmy DeKnight), the song was recorded by Bill Haley and his Comets, a country band gone pop. It catapulted them to fame and huge record sales after being featured behind the opening credits of The Blackboard Jungle, a controversial, instinctive work about juvenile delinquency. It remained Kassner's greatest publishing coup and a cornerstone of the business he built during the post-war years.

Company was founded after he left the army and he spent the 1950s building it into a potent force with songs recorded by Frank Sinatra, Nat "King" Cole, the Ink Spots, Perry Como, Dinah Shore and local talent of the calibre of Vera Lynn, Donald Peers, Anne Shelton, Mantovani and Russ Conway.

Kassner realised early on that Anglo-American repertoire was destined to be the dominant factor in popular music, and in 1951 he opened an office in New York's renowned Brill Building, the home and focal point of American music publishing for many years. He began acquiring other catalogues during the 1950s, including the Broadway Music Corporation at the end of the decade. This was run by Albert von Tilzer, who had penned the Andrews Sisters hit 'I'll Be With You in Apple Blossom Time' and what became the American baseball anthem 'Take Me Out to the Ball Game'.



Edward Kassner... Bill Haley launched his success

Adrian Searle

Dan Flavin, minimalist sculptor, born April 1, 1933; died November 30, 1996

Nigel Hunter

Edward Kassner, music publisher, born February 28, 1920; died November 19, 1996

Birthdays

JACK BAKER, 87, actor, 1st December; John Churchill, musician, much loved husband of Joan and father of Jonathan, Nicola and Peter, Private Crematorium, Thanksgiving Service in St Giles' Church, Southey Drive, on Wednesday December 11th, at 2.30pm. No flowers by request, but donations if desired to St. Nicholas Hospice or St. Vincent's Hospital, 100, Church Street, Glasgow, G1 3PL, 0141 842 1000.

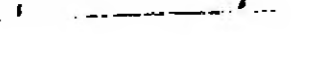
Death Notices

EDWARD JAMES A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Edward James will be held on Friday 6th December at 2.30pm in Winchester Cathedral.

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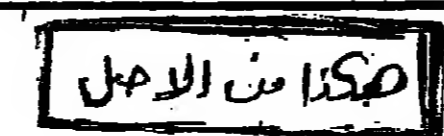
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Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

NatWest to shed 10,000 staff • Union talks of jobless ghettos • Ombudsman slates administration

Uncaring banks under fire

Richard Miles

THE Banking Ombudsman Laurence Shurman rebuked banks yesterday for taking too little care when closing branches and cutting jobs. He said that it had led to some "horrendous" cases of misadministration.

Mr Shurman's criticism came on the same day as NatWest Bank confirmed plans to shed 10,000 jobs and cut the number of processing centres from 150 to 80 by the end of the decade. It has already announced the closure of 350 high street branches.

His annual report also reveals that the number of complaints about mortgages and lending has soared in recent years. Of the 736 complaints accepted for full investigation in the past year, a third concerned lending, compared to just 8.5 per cent in 1993.

During the year, the ombudsman secured compensation totalling almost £1 million after finding in favour of 53 per cent of complainants. The highest payout was £56,740 and the lowest £15, with the average pegged at £2,815. 13 per cent higher than last year.

Mr Shurman, who will retire as ombudsman at the end of this year, called on banks to deal more speedily and more willingly with complaints. He also asked for the maximum pay-out to be lifted from £100,000 to £250,000 and for the code of banking practice to be strengthened.

NatWest shrugged off the ombudsman's criticism yesterday, saying its restructuring plan, aimed at reducing the UK operation's costs from 68 to 63 per cent of income within four years, would lead to a better service for its customers.

Lenders 'tuned 90s downturn into a slump and cost 500,000 jobs'

BRITAIN'S banks and building societies added half a million to the nation's debt queues as a result of their draconian lending policies in the recession of the early 1990s, according to research released today, writes Larry Elliott.

The reluctance to extend credit to hard-pressed individuals and businesses cost the UK £15 billion in lost output in 1991 and turned a downturn in the economy into a slump, the study found.

With a fall in property prices, while considered unlikely, should have encouraged more action by the Bank of England than the occasional general warning by the Governor of the need to be careful in this area.

Mr Young said that in 1991 and 1992 the leading UK lending institutions were forced to write off 2.5 per cent of their domestic loan book as businesses and homeowners were unable to repay the debts built up in the late 1980s.

Notebook

Water firms' logic is leaking



Edited by Mark Milner

TURNING inefficient public sector concerns into world-beating companies is supposed to be a British local speciality. Indeed Ian Lang, the trade and industry secretary, is today hosting a conference to offer that expertise to other countries starting down the road to privatisation.

Water is certainly a case in point. The research published yesterday by the Independent Centre for the Study of Regulated Industries shows that customers of the 10 English and Welsh regional water companies are paying on average 4.6 per cent more in real terms for water and sewerage than when the industry was privatised seven years ago.

The companies exacting these excessive prices are hardly stoic about the amount of money the industry regulator and Europe are forcing them to invest in environmental measures and infrastructure modernisation. Yet those same companies seem to have plenty of money to buy into non-core adventures such as overseas construction contracts.

The arguments of the perfect-market-equals-perfect-competition merchants are unconvincing when applied to non-core monopoly sectors such as electricity and gas. When applied to a natural monopoly such as water these arguments appear even more leaky.

However, inadequate the regulatory regime — and it could be improved — no better mechanism is on offer through which consumers can be protected. We need more of it.

Daewoo derailed

THE French privatisation commission's decision to reject the Lagardère/Daewoo takeover of defence and consumer electronics firms Thomson has Gallic charm, though free marketeers will be throwing their hands up in horror.

The commission, it appears, was prepared to sanction the defence side of the deal involving Thomson, Lagardère and, by extension, British Aerospace. But it fumbled at letting Daewoo take over the consumer business on the grounds that it did not have sufficiently strong commitments on keeping jobs and business in France.

It may be that Daewoo can pump up its offer to overcome the commission's reluctance, though it would be unfortunate if the South Korean company were to get the impression that France is playing the kind of game that once saw all imports of Japanese video recorders routed through an isolated customs post in Poitiers.

More to the point it shows the extent to which at least some in the French establishment have failed to take on board what is happening in the defence industry, not just in France, nor even in Europe, but on a global basis.

The industry is merging and rationalising on an awesome scale in the US. Look no further than Lockheed Martin, Boeing and McDonnell Douglas as edging closer, even though talk of a merger is described as "pre-mature". Europe, by contrast, has talked much but done little since then. It is, it is, AG, or SA, still looks a long way off. That will continue to be the case if important parts of the process can be derailed on unrelated — if domestic — politically sensitive — grounds.

Paris hotel sold to prince

Ian King

GRANADA Group is to sell its George V hotel in Paris, one of the Exclusive Hotels it acquired in January's £3.8 billion takeover of Fortis, to Prince Al Waleed Bin Talal of Saudi Arabia for \$104 million.

The deal, announced yesterday, is the second in a planned \$1 billion sale of Exclusive hotels. Hyde Park Hotel, London, went to Mandarin Oriental International for \$86 million two weeks ago. Granada still has 15 Exclusive hotels.

The price of the 258-room George V, which opened in 1928, works out at just over \$400,000 per room, compared with the £485,000 per room paid by Mandarin for the 256-room per room paid by the Barclay brothers for the Ritz Hotel.



Blow for BAe but GEC may gain as French suspend Thomson sell-off

Roger Cowie

THE future of Europe's defence industry was thrown up in the air again yesterday when the French government suspended plans to privatise Thomson, the defence and electronics group.

The hiatus opens up the possibility that GEC might yet come out of the affair with a bigger involvement in the French defence business.

But it rebounded on British Aerospace, which had been expected to benefit from the sale to its missile partner Lagardère. Separately, BAe agreed yesterday with Rheinmetall to buy STN, the defence technology unit of bankrupt German shipping group Bremer Vulkan for \$221 million. BAe shares fell 29.4p to 1029.4.

The French government announced in October that Thomson would be sold to Lagardère for just one franc, rather than to GEC's main partner, Alcatel.

But yesterday the finance ministry announced that the sale was off. The decision followed a surprise veto from the privatisation commission, which must approve all state sales but was expected merely to rubber-stamp the deal.

It objected to Lagardère's planned sale of Thomson's loss-making multimedia business to the Korean electronics company Daewoo. Thomson has built up its consumer operations through a series of takeovers, including the purchase of the last British-owned television manufacturer, Ferguson, from Thorn EMI.

The government insisted yesterday that the privatisation will still go ahead, although the European Union is

investigating the proposed £1.1 billion write-off involved in the sale. The finance ministry said both original bidders were still in the frame.

Analysts said yesterday that Lagardère was still the most likely buyer, if it can find an acceptable formula for hiring off Thomson's consumer operation. But Alcatel is still in with a chance because it has made it clear that it would be prepared to keep the multimedia side.

GEC is closely involved with Alcatel through its Alstom power joint venture, which is negotiating to buy the French nuclear power company Framatome. But, in addition, GEC has a satellite deal with Lagardère's Matra as well as a sonar venture with Thomson.

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Money markets to be opened up

MARK MILNER reports on moves to bring City into international line

THE Bank of England yesterday announced plans to support London's position as an international financial centre when it unveiled plans for the biggest reform of the money market this century.

The changes will involve effectively opening the market to a range of domestic and international financial institutions, bringing London into line with other big financial centres.

And as the Bank noted carefully: "The changes are consistent with the direction and spirit of the proposals currently under discussion at the European Monetary Institute for future monetary operations in the euro, which are of relevance whether or not the UK participates in monetary union."

The Bank's money market operations are central to the conduct of monetary policy. It is through its daily interventions that it sets the short term interest rates which in turn influence interest rates throughout the economy.

Normally it worked through the Bank providing cash to the banking system on a daily basis at interest rates which it sets in line with the monetary policy laid down by the Chancellor or, less often, mopping up surplus cash from the banks themselves.

Traditionally the Bank has worked through the discount houses — small, highly specialist firms which have enjoyed an exclusive relationship with the Bank for more than a century — offering cash in exchange for a defined range of securities, such as Treasury bills and some local authority bonds.

Now the Bank plans to broaden its operations to include the £15 billion-a-day gilt repo market where government bonds are swapped for cash with an agreement that they will be repurchased at a given date.

Properly supervised banks, building societies and securities houses — both from Britain and the European Economic Area — will be invited to take part directly in the money markets through the gilt repo market.

The Bank's executive director, Ian Plenderleith, said: "We think the changes will foster the development of efficient and competitive money markets in London and that they will help to strengthen further London's pre-eminent international position."

The Bank is looking for responses to its proposals by January 10 and hopes to have the new system in operation in the early months of next year.

Darwin lives

DARWINISM is alive and well and living in Threadneedle Street. According to officials who yesterday unveiled the Bank of England's consultative paper on integrating the gilt repo market into the broader fold of sterling money markets, the process of reform of the bond market might have started with a big bang a decade ago — but since then it has been evolution all the way.

Well up to a point. It is hard to avoid the view that, though the Bank has often been pushing at an open door with some of its proposals, there has

Controls to be tightened on London's alternative market

Patrick Donovan City Editor

THE Stock Exchange last night unveiled plans to turn the regulatory screws on the fledgling Alternative Investment Market, on which shares in nearly 250 companies are now traded — including demands that they issue a "wealth warning" to would-be investors.

The move comes amid growing criticism of inadequate controls on companies listed on the secondary market, the capitalisation of which has soared to more than \$5 billion since its launch in June last year.

Among the reforms are measures intended to give far more advance warning of the intention to float, together with much more detailed information about those involved in the proposed listing.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Table with 4 columns: Country, Rate, Country, Rate. Includes Australia 1.99, Austria 17.49, Belgium 61.20, Canada 2.17, Cyprus 0.74, Denmark 5.26, Finland 7.58, France 6.37, Germany 2.675, Greece 394.00, Hong Kong 12.40, India 58.97, Ireland 0.57, Israel 5.44, Italy 2.474, Korea 0.58, Netherlands 2.7925, New Zealand 2.25, Norway 10.47, Portugal 232.00, Saudi Arabia 6.13, Singapore 2.25, South Africa 7.45, Spain 238.00, Sweden 10.97, Switzerland 2.16, Turkey 167.885, USA 1.6085.

Delta set to buy rival to become top airline

Kath Harper and Celia Weston

THE American aerospace industry appeared to be facing its biggest shake-up in decades last night as it emerged that Delta is poised to create the world's largest airline through buying rival US giant Continental Airlines.

News of the possible takeover came as aircraft-maker Boeing was reported to be gearing up to bid for defence

specialist McDonnell Douglas, which recently lost out on a \$500 billion contract to be part of the consortium to build the next generation of US fighter aircraft.

Both developments are seen by analysts as part of the continuing global shake-out of the civil and defence aerospace industries, in which the Americans are regrouping in response to rationalisation in Europe and the perceived threat of developing manufacturers from the Pacific Rim. It includes the planned tie-up

between British Airways and American Airlines, the two biggest transatlantic carriers. The two American airlines, third- and fifth-largest, which between them carry about one in four of all US airline passengers, are reported to be in the preliminary stages of an agreement. Delta and Continental would have a stock market value of \$7.4 billion (\$4.5 billion) and any deal would add Continental's hub in Newark, New Jersey, to Delta's main hub in Atlanta, Georgia.

In a separate development, Ronald Woodard, Boeing's chairman, said it was too early to conclude that co-operation with McDonnell Douglas on the building of Boeing's wide-body 747 airliners would lead to a full-blown merger. "Let us first put our co-operation programme into action," he said.

Mr Woodard also warned that the apparent recovery in the industry was not as rapid as some thought. Despite large new orders there was a need for caution, he said.

Handwritten note: 07/12/96

Tennis

Agassi gets the money and runs

Stephen Bierley in Munich

FOR the second time in two weeks yesterday...

body expects the tennis to be marvellous at this time of year...



What a racket... Agassi, thrashed in last week's ATP Finals, gives another pitiful display

I think a few more people know me. I get a little more fan mail...

man whose mind was not on the task, although clearly he had a much better excuse than Agassi.

up his pension nicely. Agassi is probably a little too young yet to be thinking of superannuation himself.

He saddled a very nice chasing recruit in Flaked Oats to win first time out in the Midlands Novice Chase at Fontwell yesterday...

Racing

Dunwoody to ride Teinein at Sandown

Chris Hawkins

TONY McCoy has been replaced by Richard Dunwoody on Teinein, the 7-2 ante-post favourite...

"He's been working very well at home and I told Tony (McCoy) he was a certainty if he stood up," said Nicholls.

Lingfield all-weather programme

Table with columns for race numbers (1.10, 1.20, 1.40, 2.10, 2.40, 3.10, 3.40, 4.10, 4.40, 5.10, 5.40, 6.10, 6.40, 7.10, 7.40, 8.10, 8.40, 9.10, 9.40, 10.10, 10.40) and race names.

Leicester card with guide to the form

Table with columns for race numbers (1.10, 1.20, 1.40, 2.10, 2.40, 3.10, 3.40, 4.10, 4.40, 5.10, 5.40, 6.10, 6.40, 7.10, 7.40, 8.10, 8.40, 9.10, 9.40, 10.10, 10.40) and race names.

Windsor runners and riders

Table with columns for race numbers (1.20, 1.40, 2.00, 2.20, 2.40, 2.60, 2.80, 3.00, 3.20, 3.40, 3.60, 3.80, 4.00, 4.20, 4.40, 4.60, 4.80, 5.00, 5.20, 5.40, 5.60, 5.80, 6.00, 6.20, 6.40, 6.60, 6.80, 7.00, 7.20, 7.40, 7.60, 7.80, 8.00, 8.20, 8.40, 8.60, 8.80, 9.00, 9.20, 9.40, 9.60, 9.80, 10.00) and race names.

Results

Table containing race results with columns for race numbers, race names, and winners.

Windsor runners and riders

Table with columns for race numbers (1.20, 1.40, 2.00, 2.20, 2.40, 2.60, 2.80, 3.00, 3.20, 3.40, 3.60, 3.80, 4.00, 4.20, 4.40, 4.60, 4.80, 5.00, 5.20, 5.40, 5.60, 5.80, 6.00, 6.20, 6.40, 6.60, 6.80, 7.00, 7.20, 7.40, 7.60, 7.80, 8.00, 8.20, 8.40, 8.60, 8.80, 9.00, 9.20, 9.40, 9.60, 9.80, 10.00) and race names.

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Windsor runners and riders

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RACELINE logo and contact information for Leicester and Lingfield.

Soccer

Boro fine Emerson £100,000

Michael Walker

EMERSON, Middlesbrough's missing Brazilian, yesterday earned a new place in soccer's hall of infamy when it was revealed that he has been fined a total of £100,000 by the club. It is the most swingeing penalty ever levied on a player in Britain.

Middlesbrough's chairman Steve Gibson confirmed that Emerson, who is believed to earn £16,000 a week, has so far been docked six weeks' wages. Emerson said that the fines will continue if the player, who has gone absent without leave three times and is currently in Brazil, does not toe the line.

Emerson has been severely disciplined and, unless his conduct improves, further action will follow, he said. "We will continue to fine him to the maximum amount until he conforms."

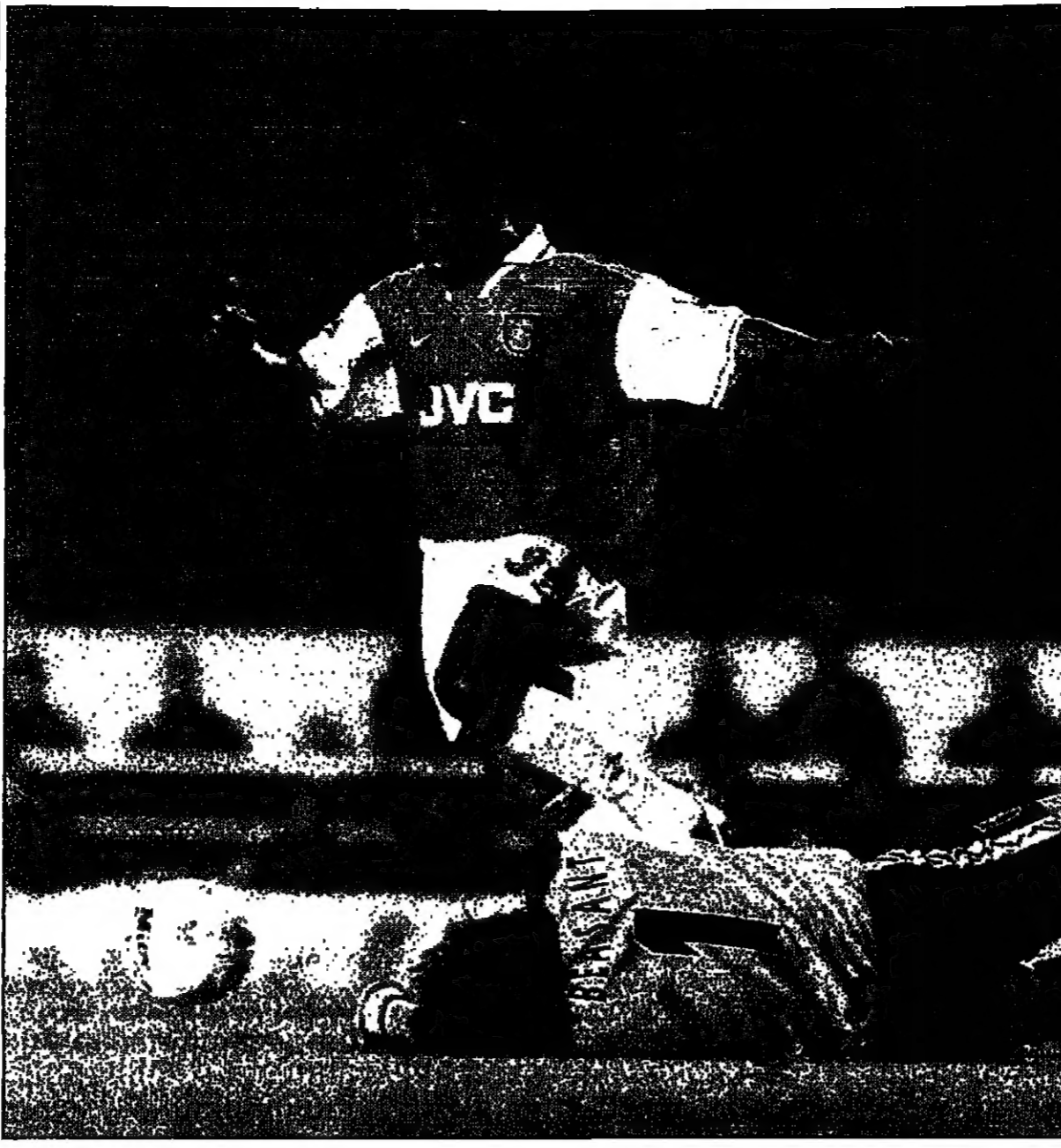
Gibson made his remarks in the course of a wide-ranging attack on the player, his agent and Barcelona, the club allegedly waiting to sign him. Gibson warned the player that all thoughts of a move should be shelved. "He is staying here," he said. "If he doesn't comply he will lose everything and it will cost him his career. He is contacted to us until June 2000, which will leave him nearly 29 years of age.

"We want him to spend the best years of his career with us and win caps for Brazil. We haven't brought him here with a view to allowing him to leave immediately."

Gibson then questioned Barcelona's behaviour behind the scenes. "Barcelona's conduct in this affair requires investigation. There has been a disgraceful manipulation of the player so that somebody can profit from the sale of Emerson to Barcelona. We are disappointed by the player's conduct but he has been badly advised. The events have been carefully orchestrated, possibly with the permission of Barcelona."

Bryan Robson, meanwhile, awaits Emerson's return from his latest trip to Brazil, although the Middlesbrough manager is not sure when that will be. "We expect him back in a day or two," he said. "But I don't know when for certain."

Emerson is visiting his homesick wife and missed Tuesday night's discouraging defeat by Leicester. Even if he returns in time to face Leeds on Saturday, the Spanish league's month for incoming transfers begins on December 15 and speculation is sure to continue that the Brazilian will replace José Bakero, sold by Barcelona last week.



Wright in his stride... the Arsenal striker missed this chance, but scored later from the penalty spot. FRANK BARON

Premiership: Arsenal 3, Southampton 1

Merson subdues Saints

Paul Weaver

ARSENAL moved three points clear at the top of the Premiership with this ultimately emphatic victory over Southampton side, who have now lost four league matches in a row.

Graeme Souness's team came to Highbury with only two points from their travels, the worst away record in the Premiership. Being without Le Tissier, Woods and Nielsen, they might have been considered something of a soft touch for the division's leaders and top scorers. But with a six-man midfield and Osenstad only occasionally supported by Berkovic up front, they succeeded in frustrating Arsenal for most of the first half.

The Gunners were themselves without Seaman, Bergkamp and Keown, and will

Southampton belatedly decided that Osenstad needed some support up front and brought on Watson for Oakley, but Arsenal then almost increased their lead. Merson declined a shooting opportunity and passed to Wright, who stepped over the ball to leave Hartson clear, but all the uselessness came to naught when Hartson shot wildly over the bar.

Southampton finally scored in the 61st minute when Osenstad beat Adams and found Berkovic, who shot from close range, but Arsenal had the last word in the 89th minute when Shaw, substituting for Hartson, scored his first goal for the club.

The target men frowned, but still was forgiven a minute later when Arsenal scored again. Lundevan was penalised for his challenge on Merson and Wright stepped up to score from the penalty spot, his 20th goal of the season.

Case pays for Brighton chaos

BRIGHTON yesterday sacked their manager Jimmy Case, under whom they have won only nine of 59 matches since he replaced Liam Brady just over a year ago. Case has seen his side win only three of three Division One games this season and last week they were knocked out of the FA Cup by Sudbury.

George Peetchey has been appointed caretaker manager and among those being mentioned as a possible permanent replacement are Gary Stevens and Steve Foster, both Brighton-based. Mark Lawrenson, Newcastle's defence coach, and the team captain Mark Morris.

It might, however, be considered a job that nobody wants, as Case claimed last week. But the chief executive David Bellotti told Radio 5 Live last night: "In the last few hours a number of managers who are out of work have spoken to me. They would like to consider coming to Brighton and I shall be meeting some of them."

"The chairman [Bill Archer] and I will be taking a decision as quickly as we can. We have 24 league games left and we have to get off that bottom place, who have now lost four league matches in a row."

Charlton rejects chance to revive Grimsby fortunes

JACK CHARLTON has rejected the opportunity to return to the English game as director of football at Grimsby, struggling in the First Division.

The club's chairman Bill Carr revealed yesterday that the 61-year-old Charlton was first approached a fortnight ago but after much thought he had opted to stay out of the game, having resigned as the Republic of Ireland manager last year after almost a decade in charge.

Grimsby dismissed their previous manager Brian Laws more than a month ago and have Kenny Swain in temporary charge, but the chairman admits they delayed a permanent appointment in the hope that Charlton would join them.

Carr said Charlton "did not want the day-to-day pressure of running a club again. We approached him through Lawrie McMenemy, who has been very helpful in this matter."

McMenemy, a former Grimsby manager and now director of football at Southampton, talked to Charlton on behalf of the Hurdell Park club but was unable to persuade him out of retirement.

Carr hinted that Swain would now be appointed permanently. "We won't be letting the managerial situation drag, but these things take time."

"We are quite happy with how things are going on the field. We think Kenny is doing a great job."

Charlton, a 1968 World Cup winner with England while a Leeds player, managed Middlesbrough, Newcastle and Sheffield Wednesday before being appointed by the Football Association of Ireland in 1994.

Liverpool have rejected Glenn Hoddie's attempt to appoint the Anfield assistant manager Doug Livermore to England's coaching staff.

Hoddie wanted to leave to join his back-room team in the build-up to international, and made an official approach before England's 2-0 win in Georgia last month. But Liverpool decided that it would not be in their interests to allow Roy Evans's right-hand man leave of absence, even on a part-time basis.

Hoddie, disappointed at the outcome, will now look elsewhere. The FA spokesman Steve Double said: "Glenn is not giving up and is still looking to get another coach for his team."

Hednesford, of the GM Vauxhall Conference, have been charged with misconduct by the FA over alleged irregularities in a ground-improvement grant application.

West Ham United 0, Aston Villa 2

Villa deliver double Hammers blow

Mark Redding

WITH just over a third of the season gone, Aston Villa are having their championship challenge subsidised. Last night's hard-earned victory against West Ham lifted them to fifth ahead of Manchester United, who visit Upton Park on Sunday.

Knocked out of the UEFA Cup and relieved of their hold on the Coca-Cola Cup, the onus was on Villa to take the game to the home side if they were to rescue something from this campaign. After a

diffident start the visitors eventually prevailed with two goals from set pieces, Elhagou putting them in front with a header from a corner, Yorke making the game safe in the 74th minute by repeating the trick.

West Ham posted a warning in the 13th minute when they headed the game into the net, but the indifferent marksmanship that had seen them manage just 13 goals in the league this season let them down again. Raduciolu, partnering Dowie in the absence of the injured Porfirio, played in a sweet ball from the left that put the Northern Ireland striker

clear on goal, but he shot at Oakes's legs.

Seven minutes later it was Raduciolu who spurned an opportunity to open his league account with the Hammers. Oakes did well to keep out a fierce drive from Breacker. The ball dropped straight to the Romanian World Cup forward lurking on the edge of the area, but Raduciolu shinned it disconcertingly over the bar.

Slowly Villa were beginning to stir. Milosevic had already tested MIKOSKO with a dipping half-volley when just as all expectations that visitors took the lead. Draper

Champions Cup final round, Group A

Auxerre 2, Rangers 1

Rangers end on a flat note

Patrick Glenn in Auxerre

AUXERRE secured the right to the Champions Cup against a makeshift Rangers team who had, predictably, more fight than finesse. If the margin of victory seems a little skinny, it may be ascribed to collective determination by the Scots and individual defence by their goalkeeper Goram.

Auxerre's first-half goals were scored almost in spite of their conservatism. The realisation that a draw would be sufficient to qualify them for the quarter-finals was always going to have a cooling effect on their approach to the game.

And, given Rangers' relative indifference to the result, lengthy periods of aimless spinning in midfield were entirely predictable. For the French, a manic charge at the visiting defence might have been *magnifique* but, considering the risk, it would certainly not have been *in guano*.

So, when Laslandes and Marlet scored one each and Gough replied for the Scots before the interval, there was widespread surprise. That first strike came at the end of 30 totally uneventful minutes. If you do not count the booking of Ferguson for a foolish tackle on Rabarivony near the half-way line.

It was Rabarivony's cross from the left which started the process, Marlet meeting it eight yards from goal and heading powerfully to the right of Goram. The goalkeeper made a fine save but was unfortunate to see the ball rebound straight to Laslandes, who volleyed it home from close range.

The second goal, in the 31st minute, was virtually all Mar-

Keep your shirt on, Ginola tells fussy referees

Michael Walker

sees no harm in Asprilla's 'excessive goal celebration'

IT COULD be said that the flamboyant Faustino Asprilla was hoist by his own petard on Tuesday night. Newcastle United's opening goal against Metz was a long time coming, and after scoring it the Colombian entertainer indulged in a spot of flag-waving with his shirt in a dark corner of St James' Park.

The gifted striker, who is cheered by the Toon Army even when he falls over, was promptly booked by the Swiss referee Sergio Muhmanthaler for his shirtless antics and will miss the first-leg match against whomever Newcastle face in the UEFA Cup quarter-finals next March.

A minute after collecting this booking Asprilla scored again — an even better solo goal — and soon afterwards he was carried off with a hamstring injury which will rule him out of Newcastle's next two games at least. One way or the other, he experienced the full gamut of emotions in the game's final 10 minutes.

Asprilla rarely talks about his performances, especially since his interpreter went off to college in London, but his post-match comment — "I was just so happy at helping Newcastle get through" — hardly constituted a soul-baring exercise.

It was left to David Ginola, the only happy Frenchman in the North-east on Tuesday night, to speak up for Asprilla. Ginola's defence of his team-mate was forthright. "I like Timo, as a guy and as a footballer. He's the sort who just wants to go out and enjoy his football and I admire that in him."

"I think it is a bad situation and, when a player is booked for enjoying himself, a bad decision. People should remember that football is a show and spectacle. It's put on for the benefit of the public, and bringing a bit of fun into the celebrations is good for the fans."

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Asprilla... over the top?

Award ices Dundee's cake

THE Karlsruhe striker Sean Dundee, a 28-year-old South African, has been voted Germany's Player of the Year by his fellow professionals. Dundee, who hopes to become a German citizen, beat the VfB Stuttgart striker Giovane Elber and his Karlsruhe team-mate Thomas Hessler to the accolade. "It is the first time I've won an award like this," said the Bundesliga's leading scorer.

Dundee began last season as an amateur with Karlsruhe but forced his way into the first team and scored 16 league goals. He has scored 22 this season.

Soccer

PA FANNO, Soccer round: Tor Low To v. Martin; Rangers Leeds; Liverpool v. Blackburn; Tottenham v. Reading; Utd. v. Liverpool.

Ice Hockey

SUPREMACY: Rastislavko v. Cardiff (3:0); Bracknell v. Newcastle (5:0).

Fixtures

(7:30 unless stated)

Soccer

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Ice Hockey

SUPREMACY: Rastislavko v. Cardiff (3:0); Bracknell v. Newcastle (5:0).

Boxing

A four-year fund-raising drive for Britain's Olympic athletes was launched yesterday at a dinner in London. The aim is to raise £100,000 for the British Olympic Foundation's programme to help sponsor talented young athletes, especially those with medical problems at the Sydney Summer Games and the Paralympics in 2000.

Swimming

Graham Robertson remains on course for a third Scottish Indoor Masters loose the star defeating England's Andy Thomson by 10.7 seconds to win the 100m freestyle. The final tonight will be an all-Scottish affair as Robertson, champion in 1992 and the following year, meets the winner of the second semi-final and the Scottish champion David Pescoe.

Bowls

SCOTTISH INDOOR MASTERS (Continued): 218th 100m (M) to M Thomson (10:7); 100m (F) to D Pescoe (10:7); 100m (M) to M Thomson (10:7); 100m (F) to D Pescoe (10:7).

Cricket

WEST INDIES INTERNATIONAL (Continued): Pakistan 228 (46) over; Glamorgan 77 (20).

DUCK CITY Alan Snow

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Cricket

Tour match: Mashonaland v England XI

Houghton heaps on the agony

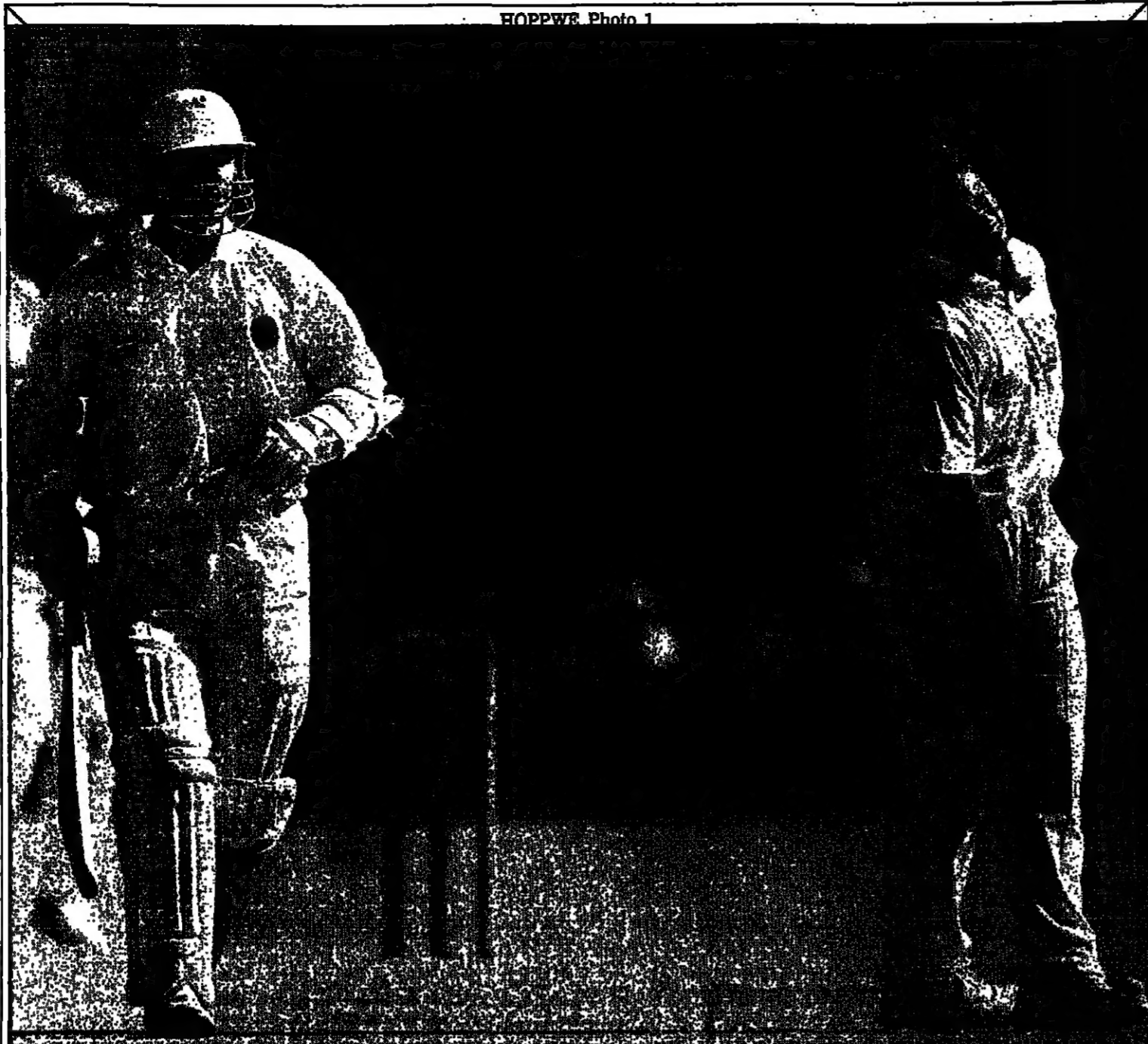
David Hopps in Harare

Now that Graham Gooch no longer runs up fire-escapes in the name of English cricket, David Houghton has inherited the dubious accolade of the oldest Test batsman in the world. It is advisable to remind him of that on good days, and yesterday was one. How much psychological damage England have suffered in their sluggish start to this tour remains debatable, but Houghton's century undoubtedly heaped a further burden on a tour party keenly aware of a record of only two series victories overseas in the past decade. His innings may yet contribute to another England defeat. Mashonaland, 275 for

Scoreboard

Scoreboard table showing England XI vs Mashonaland. Includes batting and bowling statistics for both teams.

nine at the close of the second day, lead by 82 on a pitch that has begun to turn so appreciably that the last six wickets fell to Robert Croft and Phil Tufnell within nine overs. Houghton, as Zimbabwe's coach, has assembled a file on every England bowler, advocating how they can best be played. It would be a touch naive to suggest that yesterday he put those theories into practice, for he recognises that his own style is highly individual. "I don't look orthodox and I don't look pretty," he said. "I think it would be a touch naive to suggest that I know how to hit a ball outside off stump through the leg side, then so be it." Houghton's coaching manual, nevertheless, should not be short of positive vibes after his 110 made in less than three hours from 141 balls. He could heartily recommend combating Tufnell's left-arm spin with the lofted sweep shot which brought him both



Painful experience... Darren Gough shows his despair as Craig Wishart canters another run against England yesterday

his sixes, including the one that brought up his 100. As the ball rolled to a halt on the rugby outfield he was congratulated, incongruously, by a lone spectator dressed in a Scottish kilt. Houghton's batting, though, has always had a touch of Braveheart about it. At 258 for three, with Houghton dominant, Mashonaland had visions of establishing an impregnable position. Instead their former captain, reaching forward to Tufnell, was undone by turn and bounce and returned a catch. That began a transformation from which England

might yet piffer an unlikely victory, with Croft embarking upon a spell of four wickets for five runs in six overs. Wishart and Paul Strang fell at short leg, Duncan Campbell edged to first slip and Brent was leg-before. Glenn Hodgie, as a born-again Christian, has been at pains to point out that he has more important things to pray for than England victories, but one could not help noticing that the tourists have called up a familiar ally in Andrew Wingfield-Digby, who was sitting by Castle Corner and seemed to be concentrating hard.

Wingfield-Digby's unofficial role as England chaplain was unofficially suspended 18 months ago when Raymond Illingworth banned God and mobile telephones on the same day. Now that Illingworth has gone, Wingfield-Digby is offering spiritual comfort again and, for those players more obsessed with man-made communications, Zimbabwe is just about to launch a cellular network. Judging by the rest of their communications industry, it is to be hoped that lines to God prove rather more reliable. England resumed at 175 for nine and, although the pluck

of Croft and Tufnell could not be faulted as they scraped a further 22, Mashonaland's failure to take the last wicket for more than an hour proved a blessing in disguise according to Zimbabwe's captain Alistair Campbell. By the time England's pace attack set to work the movement often available in the first hour had diminished. Gough bowled quite sharply at times, in between regular re-dressing of blisters caused by a new pair of boots, whereas Mullen, who has become the most reliable component of England's attack, bowled too short. Cad-

Rugby Union

Underwood back from Lomu limbo

Robert Armstrong

Tony Underwood and Victor Uboqui have been added to the England squad of 21 for the international against Argentina at Twickenham on Saturday week. Underwood, who last played for his country in the World Cup defeat by New Zealand 18 months ago, has impressed England's coach Jack Rowell with his recent Newcastle form after missing most of last season with a knee ligament injury. Uboqui, the 22-year-old Bath forward, and Coventry's Rob Harwick who made his England debut as a substitute against Italy, will act as cover for the first-choice props Jason Leonard and Graham Rowntree. Uboqui, last capped in the defeat by South Africa a year ago, has regained the match-hardiness and scrum-maging form that the England coaching staff deem necessary for Test rugby.

He matches. Still, I am not the man in possession and I obviously suffer from that. If the top two are playing well, as they are."

Rowell will probably announce his match line-up on Monday, having kept his fingers crossed that no one gets injured in the weekend programme of Courage league matches. Sleightholme has been left out by Bath for their crucial home game against Harlequins but the England captain Phil de Glanville will lead Bath even though he has not fully recovered from the dead leg and head wound he suffered during last Saturday's defeat by the New Zealand Barbarians.

Underwood, who scored 10 tries in 20 internationals, should keep his place in the England wing steamroller by the All Black Jonah Lomu during last year's World Cup semi-final at Newlands. That fairly comical image was underlined by Underwood himself when he appeared in TV pizza adverts with Lomu. "I think that I deserve to be there but I don't want to be remembered for my last England performance," he said. "Playing League Two rugby does not affect my skill but it does give me fewer high-pro-

ARMWWE Photo 1



Underwood... pizza action

Clubs' peace deal with the RFU may leave Sir John in the cold

David Pinner

SIR JOHN HALL, one of the most aggressive advocates of club power in the game's new professional era, could find himself isolated this week as the leading clubs make peace with the Rugby Football Union. The lengthy and often acrimonious conflict between the top 24 clubs and the RFU, which at times threatened to tear the game's once cosy world apart as the two groups fought for control of the purse-strings, will end when the clubs accept the RFU's terms and its position as governing body. The indications are that all the clubs, with the possible exception of Sir John's Newcastle Gosforth, will sign the agreement. The clubs, some being bankrolled by a new breed of millionaire owners, had wanted to run the professional game themselves, giving them control of its finances and fixtures through their own organisation, English Professional Rugby Union Clubs. The RFU would have been left to run the non-professional side of the game.

Sir John, whose big-name signings at Newcastle Gosforth did much to kick-start rugby union's new play-for-pay ethos, was possibly the strongest advocate of that go-it-alone position. He may well now refuse to swallow his pride. Sir John has called the RFU deal a "con trick". If he does not sign the agreement, while the other clubs attempt to change the RFU rather than ditch it—a sort of rolling man-of-straw rather than kicking for touch—the ambitious and vociferous multi-millionaire could decide to pull out of rugby union altogether and concentrate on the soccer, ice hockey and basketball clubs, with the possible exception of Sir John's Newcastle Gosforth, who will sign the agreement. The clubs, some being bankrolled by a new breed of millionaire owners, had wanted to run the professional game themselves, giving them control of its finances and fixtures through their own organisation, English Professional Rugby Union Clubs. The RFU would have been left to run the non-professional side of the game.

Saqain's spell overturns New Zealand

JUDGING by the way Pakistan's Saqlain Mustafizur has polished off New Zealand in the first one-day international in the Gujranwala, England's spinners can anticipate some rich pickings against the Kiwis in the second leg of the winter tour. The off-spinner took five for 41, his best in limited-overs games, as New Zealand were bowled out for 217 to give Pakistan an 11-run win and a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. Saqlain turned the

match in Pakistan's favour after New Zealand had made steady progress in pursuit of the hosts' 228 for eight. A 78-run second-wicket partnership between Bryan Young, who hit 58, and Adam Farooq laid the foundations on which Stephen Fleming and Chris Cairns built a stand that held out the promise of a New Zealand victory. But once it was broken, 60 had been added in 9.4 overs, their hopes were dashed. Saqlain's effort was not

enough to secure the Man of the Match award, which went to Salim Malik for his unbeaten 73. Wasim Akram hit 52 to pass 2,000 runs in one-day internationals. In Nagpur, Vinod Kambli scored 38 off 101 balls on the second day of the Indian A XI's match against the South Africans. He hit seven sixes—four off successive balls—and 11 fours, but despite his effort his side were all out for 340 and finished the day 77 runs behind.

Elliott to miss third Test because of knee injury

THE right knee injury that the Australian left-hander Matthew Elliott suffered during the second Test against West Indies in Sydney on Monday is more serious than at first thought and he will be out for more than a month. He required an operation on Tuesday to repair cartilage damage sustained in a collision with Mark Waugh while they were batting together. He had hoped to be fit for

the third Test which starts in Melbourne on Boxing Day but is now unlikely to be ready before the fourth Test in Adelaide on January 25. "Matthew will be on crutches for four weeks and hopes to return and prove his fitness in time to be available for selection for the Adelaide Test," said his manager Rob Alvatoglu, who added that the surgeon, David Young, expected the player to make a full recovery.

Elliott headed the Australian averages last season and made his Test debut in the first match of the current series in Brisbane as a replacement for the dropped opener Michael Slater. In Sydney he was 78 not out and seemingly on the way to his maiden Test century when the collision with Waugh forced him to retire hurt. But Australia won by 124 runs and lead the series 2-0.

Motor Racing

Manse!! to test Jordan

Alan Henry Nigel MANSELL must have liked what he saw on his "fact-finding" visit to the Jordan-Peugeot team's headquarters at Silverstone yesterday. Speculation that the 43-year-old will be tempted back into Formula One grew yesterday when Eddie Jordan announced that Mansell will test one of the Peugeot-engined F1 cars at Barcelona's Circuit de Catalunya next week. Mansell will have mixed feelings about this venue, for it was at Barcelona 18 months ago that his second comeback ended. He left McLaren-Mercedes after only two races, but not before McLaren had been forced to invest £500,000 in building a car with a cockpit specially enlarged to accommodate him. Both he and Jordan are playing down speculation that the two-day test on Wednesday and Thursday will lead to a firm contract for the Englishman, world champion in 1992, to partner the 21-year-old Ralf Schumacher in next year's world championship series. "It is 30 years since Eddie and I raced against each other in Formula Ford," said Mansell. "We are old friends, and I'm delighted to have this op-

portunity to reacquaint myself with a Formula One car." Jordan said: "I have asked Nigel several times over the years to drive one of my cars but the timing wasn't right. Now it is. "There is no commitment from either party beyond this test. Nigel is Britain's most successful driver of all time and it is an honour for everyone at Jordan Grand Prix Racing to give him this test." However, Mansell's outing



Mansell... back to Barcelona

in the Jordan-Peugeot could well herald a third curtain-call for the man whose F1 career began 16 years ago at the second day of the Lotus car in the Austrian GP. He scored the first of his 31 grand prix victories at Brands Hatch in the 1985 Grand Prix of Europe at the wheel of a Williams-Ford, and went on to win the world championship seven years later in a Renault-powered Williams. He left F1 at the end of 1992 for IndyCar racing in the United States, then returned to guest for Williams after Ayrton Senna's fatal accident in the 1994 San Marino GP. Passed over by Williams for a regular drive in 1995, he then entered into the short-lived partnership with McLaren-Mercedes. After such a bruising experience it is questionable whether he will be prepared to put his reputation on the line if he is not convinced that the Jordan-Peugeot car is a worthwhile proposition. Yet with Damon Hill relegated to the fledgling Arrows-Yamaha squad after turning down Jordan's £4 million offer, it may just be that Mansell could envisage a comeback in 1997 as a feasible way to revive flickering memories of his glory days as Britain's leading grand prix contender.

Squash

Parke finds inner strength

Richard Jago in Bombay SIMON PARKE'S triumph in the Super Series final at the end of the year. Parke, still weak from the stomach trouble he suffered during last month's World Open in Karachi, tired after going two games and 7-4 up against the Egyptian. "But somehow I found the mental strength to push on," said the Yorkshireman. His opportunity to reach the eighth and last qualifying place in the Super Series has come because Australia's Anthony Hill

walked out on his opening match in a fit of temper. Parke's hopes of reaching the semi-finals look reasonable, for his next opponent is the world No. 18, Zubeir Jahan from Pakistan. A five-game defeat for England's Mark Chaloner by Egypt's Ahmed Barada means that only two seeds have survived: Rodney Eyles, the favourite from Australia, and Peter Nicol, the title-holder from Scotland, who beat England's Stephen Meads 15-5, 15-9, 15-3.

of qualification for the Super Series final at the end of the year. Parke, still weak from the stomach trouble he suffered during last month's World Open in Karachi, tired after going two games and 7-4 up against the Egyptian. "But somehow I found the mental strength to push on," said the Yorkshireman. His opportunity to reach the eighth and last qualifying place in the Super Series has come because Australia's Anthony Hill

Ice Hockey

Panthers celebrate backing for new arena

Vic Betchelder DESPITE the Nottingham Panthers' 4-1 defeat at Sheffield on Tuesday—a result which sent the Steelers to the top of the Superleague—the club's owner Charles Walker was happy yesterday. The main reason was the news that the Sports Council had in principle approved funding support for a £20 million scheme by Nottingham City Council to construct two

ice rinks on a site adjacent to the present 3,000-capacity, 50-year-old Nottingham Ice Stadium. One of the new rinks will be an 8,000-seat home for the Panthers. Work is expected to begin in the middle of next year and the arena should be ready for the 1999-2000 season. "It is great news for the city, for Nottingham Panthers and for British ice hockey generally," said Walker. The Panthers also announced yesterday that they have signed the Canadian for-

ward Jason Jennings, formerly with Milton Keynes, from the German side Straubing Tigers and hope he will make his debut in Saturday's Benson and Hedges Cup final against Ayr at Sheffield. John Lord, the Superleague chief executive, confirmed yesterday that Ayr's Canadian defenceman Ryan Krumm is unlikely to play in the final. He was suspended for six games for fighting with a Manchester player in the sin-bin last week.

Sport in brief

Sports Politics Bidders for Britain's Academy of Sport and its £100 million of National Lottery money unveiled their plans yesterday. "We can pledge more medals at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney," said Sir Nigel Rudd, leader of Nottingham Council's consortium, which includes Loughborough and Nottingham universities, Queen's Medical Centre and Lillieshall. Sites near Watford and Hatfield are proposed by the Athletics Association, voted Kulunkundi and backed among others by the tennis player/entrepreneur David Lloyd and hockey gold medalist Sean Kerly. A shortlist of the 26 contenders is due before the end of the year, and a decision by the end of January. Hockey A new administration for men's and women's hockey in England next June came closer yesterday when the man's ruling body, the Hockey Association, voted 53-10 in favour at a special general meeting, writes Pat Rowley. The women's association, the AEWHA, is holding a postal vote to be declared on Saturday; it needs 90 per cent in favour. Rugby League Clubs can now sign six overseas players instead of five, and that may spark a scramble for Australian tal-

Advertisement for Damon Hill's book 'ON TOP OF THE WORLD'. Includes a photo of Damon Hill and promotional text about his career and the book's content.

Handwritten signature or scribble at the bottom of the page.

Listless Agassi slides out, page 13

Massive fine for Emerson, page 14

England struggle in the field, page 15

Underwood recalled from limbo, page 15

SportsGuardian

SOCCER



On the way through... Ryan Giggs latches on to a neat pass from Cantona and slides the ball into the net for Manchester United's first goal last night. PHOTOGRAPH: LAURENCE GRIFFITHS

European Champions League final round, Group C: Rapid Vienna 0, Manchester United 2

United waltz it in Vienna

Giggs and Cantona steer path to the quarter-finals

David Lacey in Vienna

MANCHESTER United are there — or thereabouts anyway. Alex Ferguson's team came in from the cold of a bitter Viennese evening in the Ernst Happel Stadium here last night to celebrate a long-awaited appearance in the quarter-finals of the European Cup, the first by an English club in the competition for 11 years.

Fenerbahce's defeat by a similar margin against Juventus in the Stadio delle Alpi means that they will play Porto in March for a place in the last four, with the opening leg at Old Trafford. For the moment United will be grateful simply to be alive at this level after home defeats by Fenerbahce and Juventus had threatened them with a third failure in the tournament in four seasons. They were also thankful that the decision of Marcello Lippi, the Juventus coach, to start the Fenerbahce match without Ferrara, Jugovic, Deschamps, who was injured,

and Boksic did not add a cruel twist to a night which saw United starting to look like a power in Europe again. Even now it would be foolish to read too much into last night's victory over a Rapid side who, like Juventus — already Group C winners — had nothing to play for except a little pride and the extension of a 15-match unbeaten home run in Europe. With Rapid going for victory just for the hang of it and United always likely to exploit shaky Viennese defending, the match remained open-ended. United owed much to Roy Keane, whose strength domi-

nated the midfield until he was forced off after a tackle with Köhnbauer 15 minutes from the end. His injury — a shin slashed to the bone which required 30 stitches — looks likely to keep him out until the new year. United's goals were scored by Ryan Giggs, who should have had more, and Eric Cantona who, after a quiet start became a growing influence on the game — much as he had done in the 3-0 win against Fenerbahce in Istanbul, where he also completed United's victory. Yet again, however, inspirational goalkeeping by Peter Schmeichel underwrote a United success. Had he not scooped away a goal-bound header from Rene Wagner in the 16th minute the night might have gone horribly wrong for Ferguson and his players. So United have succeeded in the revamped European Cup where Arsenal, Leeds and Blackburn, apart from themselves, have failed in the Nineties. Porto will be a difficult hurdle; so far their form in Europe has put them in the Juventus class. But United have three months to get their act together. They knew that whatever they achieved here last night would be fruitless unless it was complemented by a

favourable result from the other side of the Alps in Turin. To that extent the evening was always going to be governed by distant echoes. A lot depended on United being able to recapture the shape, rhythm and spirit of Istanbul, where they had briefly appeared to be in control of their own destiny. And this is largely what happened. Rapid's defence soon betrayed signs of the disorganisation reminiscent of their 2-0 defeat at Old Trafford. Giggs waited an easy chance over the bar and Gary Neville's 25-yard drive was tipped over the top by Konsel. When Rapid responded — and in a moment that recalled Banks's save from Fala in the 1970 World Cup — Schmeichel kept out Wagner's close-range downward header with one hand. Ratajczyk having turned the defence on the left before crossing. Solskjaer then missed from point-blank range, but no matter. Cantona was now in the game and midway through the first half he gathered a ball from Giggs, turned a defender and threaded a return pass through a square defence to leave the Welshman with a chance that this time he did not miss, driving a low shot past Konsel. Giggs could and should have given United an un-

breakable grip on the match less than a minute after half-time. Solskjaer bobbed and weaved his way through the Rapid defence in the inside-left position before carefully setting up the simplest of opportunities. Giggs took aim but placed his shot wide. After Konsel had made a brave double save from Butt, Cantona's firm header hit the outside of the near post. Then in the 71st minute Rapid were completely exposed as Beckham's low centre from the right found Cantona sliding in at the far post to score the simplest of goals. The loss of Keane and Butt, injured by Zingler's challenge, slightly dampened the celebrations, but at the end of spring and Porto wins were beckoning Manchester United through winter's chill. United Vienna: Konsel; Inacio, Schmeichel, Ratajczyk, Prosenik, Herd, Sögher (Mandrak, 87min), Köhnbauer, Wagner, Simec (Preston, 82). Manchester United: Schmeichel; G Neville (Geiger, 90), May, Paterson, Irwin, Beckham, Butt (Petrovsky, 63), Keane (McClair, 77), Giggs, Cantona, Solskjaer. Referee: L. Gornall (Sweden).

Sub plot that injects a sting in the tail



Frank Keating

THERE was a touching and dynastic coincidence at Cardiff Arms Park last Sunday, a romantic sub plot. It is fully a quarter of a century since big, bold, blood Derek Quinell (already a star Lion, but still uncapped by Wales) resolutely barged through a touchline wall of police stewards and spreadeagled a posse of gaping ambulance men in his desperation to take the field as replacement for Wales against France. He was on for 65 seconds before the final whistle blew. He never remotely touched the ball. But as he trooped off, his beam (and his team) memorably acclaimed the joy of his first cap — doubly so when the touchline coppers said they wouldn't, in the circus, press assault-and-battery charges.

went down — and, with the help of the rest of the bench, taking an age intricately to tie his boot-laces. Teaguey, why hadn't they been done up already, I asked afterwards. "My bad blood circulation," he said. "It's hereditary, and the reason all Teagues roll their socks down."

The first-ever replacement in an international was Mike Gibson, of the Lions, in the 1968. Test the summer of 1968. But perhaps the most celebrated British "super sub" who deserves to be enshrined in the all-time legend is another Welshman, Ray "Chico" Hopkins, of Maesteg and, still, the Universe: only two Test caps, both as sub for Gareth Edwards, once for Wales at Twickenham in 1970 and once for the Lions at Dunedin in 1971. Both matches won, both times Chico man of the match. In soccer the first English sub to score was the canny Wolf Jimmy Mullen in 1950, but after the allowing of replacements in rugby in 1968 a sideline doctor always had to examine the player going off and then, the law said, "pronounce him to the referee as sufficiently hurt".

Only this season has the law changed to allow tactical substitutions, like soccer world-wide now. But has this crucial fact yet sunk into the noddles of the European coaches? At Cardiff on Sunday Wales were being totally outplayed — everything, particularly the line-out, but the first two of their three substitutions were palpably for injuries and only the last, in the hopeless dying minutes, was tactical when the rampant young Quinell went on for the woefully ineffective ambling slip of the line-out, Derwyn Jones.

EVEN more glaringly dim was the England sub plot the previous day at Twickenham. England compete doggedly for more than an hour till some look spend the evening at 19-19. New Zealand bring on three fresh pairs of legs and, hell for leather, run out easy winners. During which time the England management sit grim behind their bench sextet — each young man invigoratingly and twitching to start his stuff. Good heavens, it was only a friendly against the Baa-Baas; if England, during that last quarter, had sent on Clarke, Guscott, Bracken, and King or Brecken to fill four gut-busted positions, they would not only have won and set up their season but underlined the crucial challenge for all places. Or hadn't the RFU had time to notify them (in triplicate) that the rules had changed?

Unfancied Norwegians knock out Milan

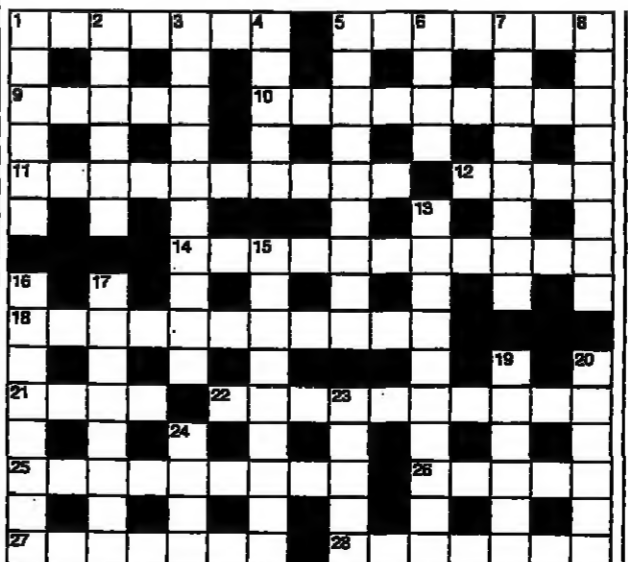
THE NORWEGIANS of Rosenborg last night sprang one of the biggest surprises in European Cup history when they overcame Milan, five times winners, 2-1 in the San Siro to remove the Italians from the competition.

Rosenborg now entertain Juventus in the first leg of the quarter-finals on March 5, shattering expectations of an all-Italian confrontation in the last eight. The Norwegians triumphed after Heggem struck in the 69th minute,

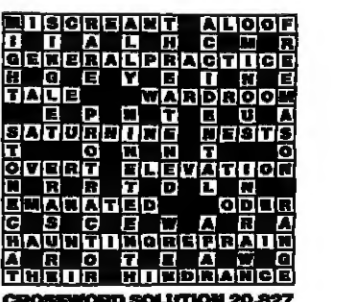
restoring their lead after Dugarry scored for Milan just before half-time. Brattbakk hit Rosenborg's first in the 29th minute. In the other quarter-finals, Ajax meet Atletico Madrid and Borussia Dortmund play Auxerre.

Guardian Crossword No 20,828

Set by Mercury



- Across**
- 1,5 Top performer doubling as an usherette? (7,7)
 - 9 Jog round front garden with no clothes on! (5)
 - 10 Something shouldered by a naval officer? (5)
 - 11 Cure can disorder before church event (10)
 - 12 Clutches £1,000 rent (4)
 - 14 A cargo I help to transport to the islands (11)
 - 18 Was grateful for a 2p version I created (11)
 - 21 A month off with male chief (4)
 - 22 Conquer walled city with a rifle (10)
 - 25 Channel Island gate I open leads to retreat (9)
 - 26 Where to ring an amateur radio enthusiast back (5)
 - 27 Counts as a good book (7)
 - 28 Melancholy now nurse is back on board (7)
- Down**
- 1,16 A capital event people go a long way to take part in? (6,6)
 - 2 Take off a black tube... (6)
 - 3... that is caught in wave of vessel in frozen waters (10)
 - 4 Birds standing around a diocese, for example (5)
 - 5 Rebel chief is captured by a six-footer (9)
 - 6 Incredible tin-opener has everything! (4)
 - 7 Foreign divorce learnt to dance (8)
 - 8,20 Barker has to appear before the judges during these (6,6)
 - 13 Irritated about fabulous bird returning material (10)



- CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,828**
- 15 Their job doesn't pay, it's claimed (8)
 - 16 (see 1 down)
 - 17 Inspect ruminants appearing in a range of colours (8)
 - 19 Filers in set formation attack from above (6)
 - 20 (see 8)
 - 23 Game played by cold Nazi leader (5)
 - 24 Watt and I read half of the telegram (4)
- Solution tomorrow**
- IT** Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0924 389 228. Calls cost 50p per minute plus VAT. Service ends 4.45pm per minute at all other times. Service supplied by ATS.
- A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

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